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6 months to go. Are you ready for Y2K?

Police agencies gear up — for computer-driven hype, panic, even calamity

By Jennifer Nislow
(First of two parts.)

No lights. No telephones. No heat. No gas for the car. And all in the middle of a Midwestern winter.

While nearly every police department has dealt with the fear and uncertainty that localized technological breakdowns can create among the public, what is facing the public-safety sector at the end of this year is something completely different: the so-called Millennium Bug, a computer meltdown with the potential for causing all of these and a host of other crises to occur all at once, overwhelming law enforcement and setting the stage for a public safety catastrophe. It would be comparable perhaps to a power blackout, a blizzard and a tornado striking at the same time.

Few if any of the nation's police departments expect such a deadly confluence of events — as one chief put it, he is 99.9 percent sure that nothing is going to happen on Jan. 1, 2000, when older computer systems are suddenly unable to read the date correctly, but it's that one-tenth of 1 percent possibility that makes him want to prepare. As the countdown to the next century begins in earnest, a random survey by Law Enforcement News found a variety of precautions being taken by those police agencies that take seriously the possibility of a Y2K emergency, ranging from the operational, like the civil defense drill held in Lubbock, Tex., earlier this year, to the technological, such as the new multimillion-dollar, Y2K-compliant computer-aided dispatch and record management system installed in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. At the

same time, interviews have also turned up suggestions that there is an unsettling degree of apathy within law enforcement regarding the Y2K issue.

Speculation is endless on what will happen when the world's computers come up against a double-zero date code — just browse the Internet for a taste. In a nutshell, the problem lies with programmers at the dawn of the computer age in the 1950's and 60's who concluded they could forego the number "19" and simply identify the date by the last two digits. In the worst-case scenario, computers, unable to recognize "00" as 2000, will assume it refers to 1900 and either operate incorrectly or shut down altogether.

Beware the hidden chip

Such a massive malfunction could cripple the nation's entire infrastructure, shutting down power grids and causing sustained disruption to industries and utilities heavily dependent on computers and microchip technology, including natural gas, water, waste treatment, banks and transportation systems. Of equal concern, although less obvious, are the so-called embedded chips, the ubiquitous technology that is a factor in a wide range of civilian and law enforcement equipment — including wristwatches, smoke detectors, security systems, cellular telephones, automobiles, fuel pumps, mobile radios, radar units, mobile data terminal equipment and bomb disposal robotics.

Of course, "could" is the operative word when discussing Y2K. At present, there seems to be little factual knowledge to guide law enforcement, or any public entity, in making preparations.

According to Paloma O'Riley, an outspoken commentator on Y2K whose web site, www.cassandraproject.org, receives an average of 500,000 hits a month from those seeking a relatively balanced opinion: "Somewhere between predictions of technological doomsday and those who say that Y2K is the invention of rabid, money-hungry consultants lies reality. In the absence of hard facts and data, we are left with only one option — to take precautions."

A sampling of state police and sheriff's associations indicated that in many areas of the country, police and city management are concerned about computer compliance and are focusing on that aspect of preparedness — as well they should, since some experts suggest that even a single computer that is not Y2K-compliant could spread bad data and recalculate any compliant one

to which it is networked. Not many leaders, however, seem to have turned their attention to broader public safety issues that could easily spill over to become the responsibility of police agencies during a crisis.

Late in the game

Appleton, Wis., Police Chief Richard W. Myers, who is president of the group Police Futurists International, contends that the law enforcement profession has entered late in the game and has been remiss in its Y2K preparations on two fronts.

Unlike other professions that are acutely aware of their reliance on computers, policing has only recognized in the last year or so that it could have a problem with embedded chips and software, Myers told LEN. There has also been little recognition of how susceptible citizens could be to Y2K hysteria.

A whole cottage industry of seams and cons has grown up around millennial fears, he said, and this has left police to play catch-up not only with their technology, but on their worst-case scenario planning, as well.

Indeed, one of law enforcement's major duties in this whole process will be managing the hype and panic, said Waynesboro, Va., Police Chief Philip A. Broadfoot, a contributor to "Preparing Law Enforcement for Y2K," a recent report by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He believes that among the most overlooked aspects for police are those weeks leading up to Dec. 31. Even the most optimistic Y2K observers who believe that any problems after New Year's Eve will be of minor magnitude, Broadfoot noted, caution that there will be serious concern, even panic, among the public.

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School anti-drug programs may be good, but no panacea

School-based prevention programs may not be the "silver bullet" that will reduce the country's consumption of cocaine, but if administered on a nationwide basis may be a cost-effective safeguard against future waves of drug abuse, according to a new research study.

The study, "An Ounce of Prevention, A Pound of Uncertainty," which was released in May by Rand's Drug Policy Research Center, found that lifetime use of cocaine can be reduced by 2 percent to 11 percent over decades with a nationwide prevention program. Moreover, a program that would cover all 3.75 million children who reach the seventh grade in any one year would cost just 1.5 percent of the \$40 billion spent annually on drug control, or about \$550 million.

The findings were based on data from two model programs, Rand's own Project ALERT, and the Life Skills Training Program. Both rely on a social-influence model that teaches young adolescents methods of resisting peer pressure and pro-substance abuse messages in the media.

Evaluations of the two programs did not measure their effectiveness at reducing cocaine consumption, generally beginning after the early teen years. Instead, researchers looked at data from the National Household Survey of Drug Abuse, which finds adolescents who begin using marijuana later in life are less likely to use cocaine. They were then able to determine the percentage reduction in cocaine consumption over the course of a lifetime.

The study is quick to point out, however, that prevention could have made more of an impact on illicit drug use if such programs had been used unilaterally beginning in the late 1960s at the onset of the drug epidemic. Results now

would be modest and slow to develop. For example, it would take 10 years to reduce the number of cocaine users by 2.5 percent; 20 years to reduce the number by 5 percent; and 40 years to achieve a reduction of 7.5 percent, the study found.

The effectiveness of the evaluated programs may decline as they are upgraded to include a broader group of participants, said researchers. Still, prevention shrinks the market for cocaine, thus making law enforcement initiatives more efficient. Also, some users will cut back as the price of the drug rises, according to the study.

"At this stage, prevention can't play a decisive role," said the study's lead author, Jonathan P. Caulkins. "It isn't

the silver bullet everyone would like it to be. Still, school-based programs can play a worthwhile supportive role with respect to the current situation while providing a form of 'cheap insurance' against any future epidemics."

According to the study's cost-benefit analysis, a dollar spent today will avert the \$2.40 that Rand researchers estimate will be needed in the future to cover cocaine-related crime, health costs and loss of productivity. Irrespective of reducing cocaine use, model school-prevention programs were also found to reduce cigarette and alcohol consumption, albeit by small percentages. When the reduction of socially acceptable substances is taken into ac-

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Lucky 7: Crime decrease continues

Serious crime continued its downward spiral for the seventh consecutive year in 1998, according to preliminary figures from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Violent and property crimes each fell by 7 percent last year — the largest annual decrease since 1992.

There is no single explanation for the continuing trend, said Attorney General Janet Reno, but she credited the Clinton Administration's anti-crime efforts. "It's a combination of many factors, including more police officers, common-sense laws requiring background checks on gun purchasers, community policing, legislation banning assault weapons, practical partnerships between law enforcement and the communities they serve, more crime prevention programs and a host of effective, comprehensive crime strategies,"

she told the Associated Press.

The sharpest declines last year were in robbery and homicide, which fell by 11 percent and 8 percent, respectively. Forceful rape and aggravated assault each fell by 5 percent. Motor-vehicle theft dropped by 10 percent.

Cities with populations of 250,000 to 499,999 showed the greatest decrease in murders (13 percent) and robberies (12 percent), according to the UCR. Suburban counties showed an overall decrease of 7 percent, including a 12-percent plunge in robberies and an 8-percent drop in total property crimes. Forceful rapes in suburban counties were down by 3 percent.

Overall crime fell in the Northeastern and Western regions of the country by 8 percent each. Overall, crime in the Midwest and in the South dropped by

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Around the Nation

Northeast



MAINE — Amid heavy gunfire, a convicted child rapist who was a fugitive from Massachusetts was arrested in Drland on June 13. Richard Burdick, 49, was shot twice in the chest after police went to his apartment acting on tips from viewers who said they recognized Burdick on the TV show "America's Most Wanted." Hancock County Sheriff's Deputy Jeffrey McFarland was shot twice in the chest but was saved by his bulletproof vest. Burdick, who fled Massachusetts after failing to show up for his trial in 1998, was expected to survive.

The statute of limitations will no longer apply in sex abuse cases involving minors under 16. The previous limit had been six years. Rape and incest charges are already exempt from the deadlines.

The state will soon launch its first TV advertising campaign in 10 years in order to attract trooper recruits. Police say the starting pay, however, is \$25,000 per year, making the troopers' salary the second lowest starting wage in the nation.

MARYLAND — In the wake of school bombings, the State Police is considering requesting a helicopter large enough to carry a bomb-handling robot. Police officials also said they need more bomb-sniffing dogs in order to contend with school emergencies.

Prince George's County attorneys have requested a change of venue in the trial involving a Capitol Heights man whose leg was massively injured by a police dog. Citing press reports about frequent suits resulting from assaults by police dogs, attorneys said the government could not get a fair jury in the County. The case involves Julius LaRosa Booker, 34, who was bitten numerous times by a police dog after he ran from a stolen car. All charges against him were dropped. In a related case, Prince George's County officers are said to be under investigation by the FBI amid charges that a police dog was inappropriately loosed upon Donald Blankenship Jr., 30, on June 10. The suspect suffered heavy blood loss when the dog severed an artery.

MASSACHUSETTS — The state's Supreme Judicial Court ruled June 14 that people cannot be ordered out of their cars during traffic stops unless police believe they pose a threat.

Boston police officials are investigating charges that a white patrolman jammed the radio of a black police commander, Valmore Williams, while the commander was supervising officers guarding Hillary Rodham Clinton. Williams, a 31-year-veteran, has filed a discrimination complaint related to other recent incidents he believes were racially motivated.

Defying criticism by selectmen in Dartmouth and Freetown, Bristol County Sheriff Thomas Hodgson has vowed to continue his chain-gang program, in which shackled prisoners are put to work as cleanup crews.

NEW HAMPSHIRE — Deaths due to

domestic violence are on the rise. So far this year, 11 of 14 murders were classified as deaths from domestic abuse. In 1997, only four of 22 deaths were related to domestic abuse.

NEW JERSEY — Joining a growing list of cities with litigation pending against gun manufacturers, Newark sued 29 gun makers on June 9 for failure to provide safety locks and address other safety-related issues. The suit seeks unspecified punitive and compensatory damages.

State Trooper Brandon Crooker, 28, was cleared June 9 of misconduct charges involving a 36-year-old woman who said Crooker pressured her to bare her breasts during a traffic stop. Authorities said the woman hoped to testify against Crooker in exchange for leniency on drug charges she faced in Pennsylvania.

Off-duty Newark Police Officer Rasheen Peppers on June 6 mistook a North Bergen night club bouncer's flashlight for a gun and shot him to death. Peppers, who was also working as a bouncer at the club, fired once at Ronald Van Thomas, 45.

Pennsauken Police Officer James Rouse will not face charges in connection with hitting and killing 19-year-old Eric Pabon with his police cruiser on April 6. The crash occurred when Rouse, who was responding to a kidnapping report, collided with another vehicle before striking Pabon on the sidewalk.

The state's successful "Cops in Shops" program will be extended to Atlantic City's 12 casinos. Undercover cops will be placed in the casinos in order to deter youths from gambling.

Some 28 people have pleaded guilty or been convicted in a West New York police corruption case involving the R&B Towing Company. Roberta Palumbo, who owned the company, said she paid police \$6 for every car they impounded. Palumbo pleaded guilty and will be sentenced on Sept. 24.

NEW YDRK — New York City Police Officer Damian Conlon, 36, a bicycle patrol officer in Queens, was arrested June 3 and charged with visiting prostitutes in two brothels and failing to pay for their services. Conlon was suspended without pay for up to 30 days and may also face departmental charges.

The New York City Council approved a final budget on June 7 that will advance the hiring of some 1,500 police recruits to sometime between April and July 2000, cutting the hiring time to three months instead of six. The Council also voted to move 500 officers from desk jobs to street duty, a number less than the 950 officers proposed earlier. The Council added \$1 million into the budget to help the Police Department enhance its diversity recruitment efforts.

Attorneys defending George Bell in the 1996 murder of off-duty New York City Police Officer Charles Davis, 38, have asked for the verdict to be thrown out after learning that jurors allegedly visited the crime scene before convicting the defendant on June 11. Defying a

judge's order, two jurors were said to have visited the check-cashing store where the 22-year-old Bell shot Davis, who was moonlighting as a security guard, and one other victim. Bell faces the death penalty for the killings.

Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes said June 10 that he would no longer allow plea bargains in cases involving the carrying of illegal firearms or the possession of guns without a license. A new program also went into effect that gives people who turn in guns a \$100 voucher redeemable for cash. The measures came in response to a rash of gun-related homicides in Brooklyn, which were running at a pace ahead of last year's total of 269 slayings.

The family of 16-year-old Dantae Johnson, who was shot May 26 by a police officer who grabbed him from a moving police cruiser, is seeking \$35 million from New York City. After being chased by Officer Mark Conway, who was driving and had his gun drawn at the same time, Johnson was shot when Conway's gun accidentally discharged, police sources told Newsday.

Two state troopers were found liable on June 16 for the 1992 death of a woman while they were chasing a drunken driver. A State Supreme Court jury in Olean found that Joseph Mecca Jr. and Eugene Bartot recklessly slammed into a vehicle driven by Teri Sisson as they pursued a pickup truck driven by Michael Sweeton. Both Sisson and Sweeton were killed in the crash. Trooper Mecca, who drove the patrol car, was found 40 percent liable for the crash, Bartot was found 25 percent liable, and Sweeton was found 35 percent liable.

Some 26 members of the Bloods street gang were arrested June 21 in connection with a series of slashings aboard New York City subways. They allegedly roamed subways in small groups and slashed three victims during robberies.

Former New York City police officer Yvette Walton filed a suit on June 21 alleging that she was fired in retaliation for testifying against the department. Walton was dismissed within an hour after criticizing the NYPD before the City Council in April. Walton told the City Council that the Street Crime Unit treated minority officers badly and conducted searches without jurisdiction. Officials responded that Walton, who had been on probation, was dismissed due to her past record.

A Bronx grand jury on June 18 indicted New York City Police Officer Alfonso McMillian in the off-duty shooting of his ex-wife's husband on June 3. McMillian, who was charged with attempted murder, allegedly shot James Gumbs after an argument in front of Gumbs' residence.

A Federal jury in Uniondale on June 16 found the Nassau County Police Department liable for harassment against James M. Quinn, a former police officer who is gay. Quinn was awarded \$250,000 for emotional distress and more than \$100,000 for other damages. Quinn testified that he was repeatedly tormented for his sexual orientation.

Leigh Edelman, 21, was killed on June

12 after a standoff in Woodstock with 40 police officers. Edelman had fired shots in a cabin after an argument with a girlfriend. Police Chief Ed Brewster negotiated with Edelman for 90 minutes before the suspect pointed a gun at him, and was shot and killed by Trooper Robert Klein.

PENNSYLVANIA — A six-foot-high fence has been installed around the Franklin Terrace housing project in Erie. Authorities said it would help keep gunmen and drug dealers off the premises.

VERMONT — Swanton village police force will get \$1,320 in Federal money for bulletproof vests. The department will match the grant in order to purchase four of the Kevlar vests.

Southeast



ALABAMA — The state Legislature has approved a measure that would give police the authority to stop and ticket motorists for not using seat belts, even if they're not violating any other traffic law. Gov. Don Siegelman was expected to sign the bill.

ARKANSAS — Damascus Mayor Richard Head resigned June 10 after his decision to strip Police Chief Donny Antone of power was twice overridden by the Town Council.

FLDRIDA — A cross-dressing man suspected of raping two women and attempting to abduct 10 others in Tampa was charged with kidnapping on June 19. Brian Graham, 34, was arrested after allegedly abducting an 8-year-old girl and molesting her in his pickup truck.

The Drange County Sheriff's Office has halted patrols on the Florida Turnpike by a six-member anti-drug trafficking squad. The squad became embroiled in controversy in connection with a 1997 incident involving a Miami-Dade County police official, who claims he was pulled over because he is black.

GEORGIA — James Brown, the soul singer, has bought trigger locks for Richmond County residents. Brown donated \$4,000 for the first 1,000 locks, which will be given free to gun owners.

The Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport reported a 26-percent increase in larceny for the first four months of 1999. Luggage, cell phones and laptops were among thieves' favorite targets.

Sixteen years after he was convicted of rape and sentenced to life in prison, Calvin C. Johnson Jr. was able to walk out of prison a free man, thanks to DNA tests that exonerated him. It had taken an all-white jury just 45 minutes to convict Johnson in 1983 despite the testimony of four black witnesses who supported his alibi. Johnson is the latest of 61 prisoners in the U.S. to be released based on DNA evidence.

LOUISIANA — The first lawsuit in the nation asserting that gun manufacturers should be held liable for firearms-related violence was stopped on June

3, when a bill was passed by the state Legislature preventing Louisiana cities from suing the gun industry. The New Orleans suit was retroactively nullified by the bill, which Gov. Mike Foster was expected to sign.

Allegations of bogus rescue claims have been brought against New Orleans officers Brian Danigole and Daniel Chauvin, who won \$500 savings bonds for rescuing a woman from a submerged car in August 1998. The woman claims she was saved by bystanders.

The country's leading hair testing company, the Psychemedics Corporation, has funded a program at De la Salle High School in New Orleans to test students' hair for illicit drug use. Several other private schools in the region have followed suit, and authorities are investigating the legal implications of hair testing in public schools, a practice which researchers say is increasingly controversial.

A serial killer is suspected after the bodies of three men have been found near the New Orleans International Airport over the past eight months.

A drunken bicyclist who plowed into a police cruiser in Kenner was awarded \$95,485. The bicyclist, Jerry Lawrence, 58, broke both legs and fractured his skull in 1996 when he collided with the cruiser, which was speeding on its way to a call. A judge said the officer was partly to blame for the crash.

SOUTH CAROLINA — The FBI and the State Law Enforcement Division have been called in to investigate whether the alleged dragging of a black man by two white men was a civil rights violation. Eric Jones, 38, and Arthur Marshall, 34, are charged with assault for grabbing the arm of Sharon Green, 23, from the window of their pickup truck and pulling him for a quarter-mile on May 27.

TENNESSEE — A study by the Memphis Shelby County Crime Commission has concluded that the jurisdiction is suffering from having too many criminals and not enough prosecutors. The District Attorney's office said it needs to add 20 prosecutors to its current staff of 80.

VIRGINIA — The Virginia Beach Personnel Board was due to meet this month to consider exonerating officers who were disciplined in the 1997 shooting death of unarmed motorist Bruce Quagliato, 28. Officers fired 60 shots into Quagliato's car after they thought he reached for a gun.

Midwest



ILLINOIS — The state Supreme Court has ordered a death sentence vacated and reconsidered in the case of Gregory Shaw, 35, who was convicted of murder and sentenced to die for the 1994 slaying of Crest Hill Police Officer Timothy Simenson. Witnesses testified that Shaw did not actually pull the trigger, but was aware of the gunman's intentions.

Four sheriff's deputies and a former DuPage County prosecutor were ac-

quitted June 4 of charges that they conspired to frame a man in the 1983 murder of a 10-year-old girl. The man accused of murdering Jeanine Nicario, 38-year-old Rolando Cruz, was convicted in two trials but acquitted in 1995 after a deputy recanted his testimony. Cruz spent almost a decade on death row before his acquittal.

Granite City Police Chief Dave Ruebhausen said his officers' low rate of DUI arrests is due to the paperwork involved. Some suspects have gotten a free call to get a sober family member to drive them home. Only 13 DUI citations were given during the first five months of the year.

Gun owners are now responsible for safely storing their firearms, under legislation signed by Gov. George Ryan. Those gun owners who do not use trigger locks or store guns in locked containers in a home where a minor lives or visits will face up to \$1,000 in fines and 30 days in jail. The Child Access Prevention law does not apply if the minor uses the firearm in self-defense or illegally breaks into a residence.

Serious crime in the state dropped 12.5 percent in the first quarter of 1999 compared to the same period a year ago, according to the Illinois State Police. The largest drop was a 22.4 percent dip in robberies statewide. Murders were down 3.4 percent.

The chase of a Chicago man by off-duty Cook County sheriff's officers after a traffic dispute has been called a hate crime by the man's attorney. Cory Simmons and his girlfriend were chased by officers after they allegedly cut off the officers' vehicle. One shot was allegedly fired from the officers' Suburban. No charges had been filed against the officers.

The last Ford Heights police officer convicted of taking payoffs from drug dealers was sentenced to four years in prison and fined \$2,500. The officer, Vincent Hunter, was among seven former cops involved in the case.

Officer Joseph Miedzianowski has resigned from the Chicago police force amid Federal charges that he ran an interstate drug ring. The 22-year police veteran reportedly quit so that he would be able to use his police pension to pay for his defense. He had been suspended without pay since December.

INDIANA — First-year troopers will get a 20-percent pay hike, from \$25,124 to \$30,100. Trooper trainees will also see their pay rise from \$19,396 to \$27,563, due to increases announced June 3 by Gov. Frank O'Bannon.

MICHIGAN — Four Port Huron middle school students plotted to massacre their classmates at an assembly, according to testimony at a preliminary court hearing for the youths, who were charged on May 13. The hearing was set to determine whether there is enough evidence to try the boys for conspiracy to commit murder. Justin Schnepf, Jedaiah Zinzo, Jonathan McDonald and Daniel Fick are being prosecuted as adults in juvenile court.

Lured by promises of free tickets, television sets and cars, 70 fugitives were arrested at the Silver Dome in Pontiac as part of a police sting in June.

OHIO — Two Cincinnati police officers were cleared June 9 in the shooting death of Michael Carpenter. Hamilton County prosecutors said Officers Brent McCurley and Michael B. Miller II did not act criminally in the death of Carpenter, which occurred March 19 after a traffic stop when one officer was dragged by the suddenly accelerating vehicle and both officers opened fire. Cecil Thomas, president of the Sentinel Police Association, commented that the officers had good intentions, but called for better training procedures to prevent such incidents from recurring.

Butler County sheriff's deputies found a marijuana plant thriving in a flower bed at their headquarters on May 9. One of the inmates there pointed out the foot-tall plant to authorities, who uprooted and destroyed it.

WEST VIRGINIA — Charleston police will be allowed to enforce a curfew there, after a court allowed the curfew to continue. Minors must be off the streets after 10 P.M. on weekdays and midnight on weekends.



IOWA — Gov. Thomas Vilsack has signed into law a bill that prevents motorists convicted of vehicular homicide from being freed on bail while appealing their convictions.

KANSAS — The state's case against Shawnee County Sheriff Dave Meneley, who is accused of lying under oath and misusing his office, will be heard by a three-judge panel. Meneley's civil trial is expected to be heard later this year.

Two Topeka students have been suspended for 186 days for firing starter pistols at their schools. One 12-year-old special education student and another 12-year-old girl attending Eisenhower Middle School fired pistols on May 19.

MINNESOTA — Level 3 sex offenders would not be able to live within 1,500 feet of one another and would be prevented from living within a square block from schools and parks, under legislation proposed by state Senator Linda Higgins. Criminal justice officials pointed out that the legislation would effectively make more than 35,000 blocks off-limits to offenders. The bill was introduced after it was found that five dangerous offenders were living in a four-square-block area of Minneapolis.

MISSOURI — Money seized in drug forfeitures has paid for 5,000 gun safety locks, which are being offered free by St. Louis County police. Officials praised the program for costing taxpayers nothing.

Jefferson County residents will soon be using hand-held radar guns to track speeders, thanks to the Sheriff's Department. When reports of frequent speeders are logged in a given neighborhood, officers will be dispatched to patrol the areas. Residents will not have authority to pull over speeding motorists.

MONTANA — When daytime speed limits returned to the state's highways over the Memorial Day weekend, some 700 speeding tickets were issued. That was an 87-percent increase over the holiday weekend a year earlier. Maximum speed limits are now 75 mph on Interstate highways and 70 on two-lane roads.

NEBRASKA — Violent crimes in the state edged to a record 7,488 last year. Methamphetamine usage was blamed for the increase, which was up 3 percent from 1997.

More than 18,000 students in Millard would be under surveillance by security cameras under a plan being advanced by School Superintendent Keith Lutz. Officials say cameras are already inside two middle schools, and they want to expand the program to include three other middle schools, three high schools, and 20 elementary schools.



ARIZONA — The director of the state Department of Public Safety will not continue in his post when his contract expires at the end of the year. Joe Albo's replacement had not yet been named by Gov. Jane Dee Hull.

COLORADO — A Federal jury ruled May 27 that Denver police official Miriam Reed's First Amendment rights were not sufficiently violated that she should be awarded damages against the department in a retaliation case. Reed, a 28-year veteran, was demoted from division chief to captain in 1995 by Chief David Michaud after she had criticized the department's domestic violence training. She had sought more than \$600,000 in back pay.

Domestic violence victims in the state are being armed with cell phones, alarms and electronic pendants to help protect them from repeat attacks by their abusers. The Florida-based ADT Security Services is supplying \$50,000 worth of alarm equipment and monitoring services for residents in Douglas, Gilpin and Jefferson counties. The Wireless Foundation has also launched its "Call to Protect" program in Colorado, which gives cell phones donated by Motorola and free wireless phone air time to abuse victims.

A man said to have suicidal tendencies pulled up to the Castle Rock police station and opened fire at the building on June 23. Simon Gonzales, 30, was shot dead when officers returned fire. The bodies of the man's three daughters were found inside his pickup.

NEW MEXICO — Ignition interlock devices may be the next stage in the war against drunken driving in Santa Fe County. The devices, which would require drivers to show a blood alcohol content of less than 0.02 percent in order to start their cars, were expected to be mandated for some DWI offenders beginning in June.

TEXAS — The so-called railroad killer known as Rafael Resendez-Ramirez surrendered peacefully in El Paso on

July 13 after an exhaustive manhunt by hundreds of Federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The suspect was taken into custody after officials received a call from his sister, who said the man was willing to surrender. Resendez-Ramirez is the chief suspect in the fatal bludgeoning of six people along Texas railroad tracks in the last six months. Fingerprints and other evidence were said to link him to all six deaths.

The Arlington Police Department is being sued by the Rutherford Institute on behalf of George Daniels, a former police sergeant who was fired last September for wearing a half-inch cross-shaped pin on his uniform, after Police Chief David Kunkle had specifically barred him from doing so.

The U.S. Border Patrol said drug smugglers are driving trucks across the Rio Grande by using collapsible bridges that can be assembled on the spot in less than an hour. One such bridge was discovered by accident when agents found it under construction about 60 miles southeast of El Paso. The suspects swam back to Mexico, but the bridge was captured.

A robbery suspect holding a pellet gun was fatally shot by undercover Dallas Police Officer Genaro Hernandez on June 6. Police said that the suspect, Agapito Rodriguez, had demanded money from Manuel Dominguez and was subsequently approached by the undercover officer. Before Hernandez had time to identify himself as an officer, police said, the suspect pointed a gun at his head and demanded money. Hernandez fired 11 shots at the suspect.

UTAH — Authorities nabbed 25 suspected gang members wanted on state warrants and seized about 70 firearms in a gang crackdown over the past year. An additional 17 suspected gang members were apprehended who were wanted on Federal warrants. Police seized heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine with a street value of over \$450,000, in addition to stolen vehicles and other stolen property.



CALIFORNIA — A Federal fugitive wanted for 24 years in connection with bombing two Los Angeles police cars was arrested without incident on June 16 in St. Paul, Minn. Kathleen Soliah, now 52, was a former member of the radical Symbionese Liberation Army who allegedly planted bombs under two LAPD cars in retaliation for a 1974 shootout between police and the SLA. Soliah, who lived under the name Sara Jane Olson, was being held without bail pending her expected extradition to Los Angeles.

The region from Bakersfield to Sacramento was dubbed the "epicenter" of the nation's methamphetamine trade and classified as a Federal high-intensity trafficking zone on June 15. Some \$2.5 million per year in Federal funds may now be available to help slow the activities of so-called super labs that produce and ship the drug.

The trial of state Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement agent Richard Wayne Parker got under way in early June. Parker is charged with cocaine distribution, money laundering, conspiracy and tax evasion stemming from an initial 1997 theft of 650 pounds of cocaine from a police evidence vault. Parker, who allegedly funneled cocaine to drug dealers on a regular basis throughout the 1990s, denied the drug theft but acknowledged hiding \$600,000 at his home in San Juan Capistrano.

Under the supervision of the Los Angeles Police Department, gun buybacks will be financed by more than 100 El Sereno middle school students selling chocolate bars door-to-door. The students hope to pay \$100 for every gun relinquished by its legal owner, and expected to raise enough money to buy 20 guns, which police said they would destroy.

Riverside Police Chief Jerry Carroll announced on June 11 that he would fire the four officers who shot and killed Tyisha Miller after they found her sitting with a gun in her disabled car last December. The officers had been cleared by the county district attorney, but the incident is still under investigation by the FBI.

A man was arrested June 15 for beating his girlfriend with a large tuna outside of a San Diego supermarket. Although the fish was fresh, and not frozen, police considered it a deadly weapon. Nicholas Vitalich, 24, was charged in the case.

OREGON — A serial killer who has murdered three women near Portland was still at large in June. Two of the women were prostitutes and one was a homeless woman using drugs. Authorities encouraged homeless women to use a "buddy" system in order to protect themselves.

Under proposed legislation, the state's repeat sex offenders would get life sentences and the names and addresses of other sex offenders would be posted on the Internet. The bills have passed the state House and are now before the Senate.

WASHINGTON — After the murders of eight homeless women in Spokane, the Downtown Women's Shelter opened its doors on June 7 to provide a safe haven for women living on the street.

A citizens review panel is looking into the Seattle Police Department's handling of misconduct, after homicide detective Sonny Davis allegedly took \$10,000 from a crime scene in 1996. At least eight officers are said to have known of the alleged crime, but the department did not investigate until two years later.

Hundreds of searches could be affected by a ruling in the case of convicted marijuana dealer Stephen Anthony Thein. The state Supreme Court said that when King County officers obtained a warrant to search Thein's home, they could not rightfully base the warrant just on their suspicions and experience as officers. The court said that probable cause to believe a man has committed a crime did not automatically give rise to probable cause to search his home.

People & Places

Wright & wrong

A black police sergeant in East Orange, N.J., has drawn the wrath of other minorities on the force who contend he is a traitor whose damaging testimony in a reverse-discrimination lawsuit last year resulted in the ousting of the city's first black chief in favor of one who is white.

Last October, the city settled a potentially multimillion-dollar suit filed eight years ago by Police Chief Richard C. Wright. The suit charged that Wright, who is white, had been passed over for promotion to the top post, despite having the highest score on the Civil Service exam, because of a racially-motivated political deal that guaranteed a black appointee.

Of the 11 people who passed the exam, Lieut. Harry Harman was named Chief in 1990. Harman, who is black, had placed sixth, but moved up to the third spot after others dropped out for a variety of reasons. Under state law, then-Mayor Cardell Cooper was allowed to pick any of the three remaining candidates. He chose the popular Harman, who had been an instructor at the Essex County Police Academy.

As part of last year's settlement, Harman was forced to retire and Wright was awarded \$50,000 in addition to his promotion.

Members of the East Orange Kinsmen, a black police fraternal organization, claim that Sgt. Delacy Davis was a turncoat who was crucial to Wright's legal victory over Harman. Davis testified during the trial that he had heard Cooper vow at a 1993 Kinsmen meeting that as long as he were Mayor, there would never be a white chief in East Orange. While Cooper has denied making that pledge and another officer has testified that he did not say it, Davis was subpoenaed and contradicted their statements.

What angers many of the black officers, however, is what they see as Davis's hypocrisy. Said Sgt. Julian Rogers: "He infiltrated us and betrayed us so that they could use laws designed to protect blacks from discrimination against us. It was a kofi-wearing, Kente-cloth-wearing Negro who talked about how much he loved his brothers who did us in," he told The New York Times.

Davis also founded Blacks Cops Against Police Brutality in 1991. It was a move that got noticed by the department's minority officers because it was widely known that Davis had cost the city \$70,000 in the settlement of a brutality claim. He had shot an unarmed, fleeing black robbery suspect in 1989.

Rogers is one of 27 black officers and six white officers who have filed a Federal discrimination lawsuit charging that Wright has demoted and reassigned those who supported Harman. Rogers was reassigned to patrol from his previous slot as a narcotics squad detective. Another officer involved in the suit, Norman Price, went from being a detective in the warrant squad to patrol and crossing guard duties when Wright took command in October.

Mayor Robert L. Bowser, whose administration was also named in the suit, contends that Wright is simply exercising his right as chief to reassign officers. The reshuffling is being done

under the auspices of the city's community policing program, he said.

Davis was promoted after testifying in the suit, to sergeant in charge of community service programs. While acknowledging that he has gained from his testimony, he said that it was the city that will really benefit, and scoffed at those who complained about crossing-guard duties. "It should be the greatest honor for us as police to cross our children," he told The Times.

The settlement will eliminate cronyism on the force, Davis said, and has resulted in "a new philosophy" that has increased police presence on the streets. "Our focus should be on the community and not on individuals," he said.

Clean sweep

Members of New York City's Patrolman's Benevolent Association recently were presented with their first opportunity in nearly 20 years for a real change in leadership, and they made the most of it, sweeping into office a group of insurgent delegates led by Officer Patrick Lynch in the union's first contested election since 1980.

A 35-year-old delegate from Brooklyn's 90th Precinct, Lynch used his outsider status to powerful advantage on June 5 when he won the presidency with 38.5 percent of the vote. Unlike his rivals, including acting president James "Doc" Savage, Lynch has no connection to the former PBA leadership which had negotiated the despised "double zero" contract — a five-year pact that provides no raises during its first two years.

The election of Lynch and his "Voice of the Blue Line" slate does much to reflect the depth of unhappiness within the NYPD's rank-and-file. Foremost amongst their grievances is the substantial pay differential between city police and their suburban counterparts. Even in the face of double-digit reductions in crime in New York City, recent PBA leadership has failed to win lucrative contracts from the city — hence the dissidents' rallying cry: "Zeroes for Heroes."

Police officers also complain about conditions in some of the city's older precincts and the tarnishing of the NYPD's image in the aftermath of the shooting of Amadou Diallo and the Abner Louima brutality case. The union itself was also beset with internal problems, including the imprisonment of its chief labor negotiator and several former top lawyers and advisers, following their conviction on Federal racketeering charges.

In a barnstorming approach during the election, Lynch toured the city's 76 station houses at all hours of the day and night, hoping to catch officers on various shifts. He began campaigning within the PBA as the editor of "Brooklyn North News," a newsletter he distributed to fellow union members in 1993. Last year, Lynch and several other delegates opposed the PBA leadership's attempt to hand-pick a new law firm to replace Lysaght, Lysaght and Kramer after the attorneys were convicted. Their demand that the union take competitive bids saved the PBA \$1 million, Lynch claimed.

Within the new president's inner circle is Officer John Puglissi of



William Moore's 10-foot-tall sculpture, "Guns turned into plowshares," was crafted from more than 100 firearms collected in a buyback program, and was part of a museum exhibit last month in North Carolina.

(The Raleigh News-Observer)

Brooklyn's 94th Precinct, who will serve as first vice president. Officer John Loud, a delegate from the 19th Precinct in Manhattan, is the new second vice president. In all, the slate captured all six of the union's top positions.

The new board promises to run a more open union, advocate a four-day work week and fight to preserve the 48-hour rule, which gives patrol officers accused of misconduct two business days before they can be compelled to speak with investigators.

Right to bear arts

"Guns turned into plowshares" is both a sculpture and a metaphor for a Carrboro, N.C., exhibit last month in which artists took firearms collected during a gun buyback program and turned them into thoughtful works of art that explore the effects of firearms-related violence.

More than 200 guns collected by Chapel Hill authorities in 1995 were handed over to William Moore, a local artist. He used half to create the arresting, 10-foot-tall sculpture that is the centerpiece of the show, and gave the remainder to 10 other artists who turned in their own artistic interpretations.

"I wasn't even thinking of guns particularly politically, but as things have changed in terms of Kosovo and Littleton, I've thought about in a different light," said Morag Charlton. "It makes me feel how important it is to be thoughtful or speak one's mind about issues such as those," she told The Raleigh News & Observer.

Charlton's piece depicts a mother and child rendered on canvas, surrounded by a frame of pistols.

In another piece, artist Tinka Jordy cradles a ceramic infant in a fetal position with a wreath of indecent guns.

Moore said he did not anticipate the anti-gun tenor of the show when he distributed the weapons. But he was not

surprised, he said. "It's sort of the nature of artists," Moore told The News and Observer. "Everyone was moved by the idea of participating."

His own work is a 10-foot-tall mass of guns erected on a metal frame which arcs into a stream of melted revolvers and ends in a puddle that holds the blade of a plow.

The exhibit, at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro, makes a strong statement, said Moore. "It's political. It's emotional. It's universal."

It also taps into the community's recent brushes with gun violence. In 1995, a student at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill shot and killed a fellow student and a 42-year-old man with a rifle. He also permanently disfigured a police officer before he was stopped by other officers.

Hunter Levinsohn contributed a mailbox diorama that portrays a scene from a News and Observer article about three brothers who died in a gun battle on a barroom floor. "After all these years, I'm an optimist," Levinsohn told The News and Observer. "I look at all the terrible violence, and I think we have to find an answer."

Hog wild

It was a case of like meeting like — a small town that lived life in the slow lane and a young officer who believed bigger did not necessarily mean better. Now, after 34 years of service with the Ocean Township (Waretown), N.J., Police Department, Chief William Sneddon decided to retire last month and take advantage of that comfortable pace as a civilian.

Sneddon came to law enforcement in 1965, becoming Ocean Township's first police officer. He was drawn to the area, he said, because beat patrolmen were paid \$800 a year more there than in Dover Township, where he had also been offered a job. In 1978, he was

made Chief. The "low-key" style of Waretown suited him, he told The Asbury Park Press. "I was always a low-key person myself," Sneddon said.

That attitude has served him well in his dealings with a succession of town administrations. There were times, Sneddon said, when one political party or another would ask him to "go after the other" — something he says he always refused to do. "The only thing you have when you leave this business is your credibility," he said. "It's sort of like building blocks. You've got to listen and get the trust of the people, so they know you're a stand-up guy."

While Sneddon has received his share of commendations, including recognition as a member of the "Governor's 20 Team," or one of the top 20 shooters in the state, his greatest satisfaction, he said, came from getting needed equipment for his department.

Since arguing that a computer system would make it easier to move the agency's files in case of a flood or an emergency at the nearby Oyster Creek nuclear power plant, the Waretown Police Department has been provided with a computer from the state Office of Emergency Management and an estimated \$800,000 in other equipment, said Sneddon.

But a successful career in law enforcement does not always make for a successful personal life. Sneddon acknowledges that choices he made earlier in his career may have cost him his marriage 21 years ago. Still, he has three grown children — including William 3d, a detective with the Waretown department — and four grandchildren with whom he plans to do what "I should've done with my kids."

In early July, Sneddon plans to take off on his Harley-Davidson motorcycle for a trip to California with his 11-year-old granddaughter. "We'll take one way out and a totally off-the-beaten-track way back," he said.

Until a permanent successor to Sneddon is named, Lieut. Kenneth Flatt is serving as Waretown's acting chief.

PD's grope for answers to cop suicide

When police officers commit suicide they are not mourned publicly as are their colleagues who have been killed in the line of duty. Yet many experts believe that the strikingly high number of officers who take their own lives each year are often pushed to the edge by the stresses of the job and trying to meet their own unrealistically high expectations of success.

A study of the nation's largest police departments cited by USA Today in June found that while 36 New York City police officers have been killed on duty since 1985, 87 have committed suicide during that same period. With a national suicide rate of 12 per 100,000, according to the Centers for Disease Control, the NYPD's suicide rate of 15.5 per 100,000 is nearly 30 percent higher than what is found in the general population.

The same is true for departments in Chicago, Los Angeles, San Diego and among Federal agencies, including the FBI and the Customs Service, all of which have suicide rates significantly higher than the national rate.

While there were no line-of-duty deaths at the 2,000-member San Diego Police Department in the years between 1992 and 1998, five suicides during that time brought its suicide rate to 35.7 per 100,000, or nearly triple the CDC's national average. Last year, two of the department's most promising officers took their own lives within 48 hours of each other.

Both Capt. Lesli Lord and Officer Anthony Castellini were undergoing counseling for emotional problems at the time of their deaths. Lord, 45, was one of the five highest-ranking women in the agency and was just approaching 20 years on the force when she shot herself to death in her home. Castellini, a 12-year veteran, was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound the next

day. He had won the department's Medal of Valor in 1989 for pulling a suspect from a vehicle minutes before it burst into flames.

As he did with each of the five suicides that occurred during his six-year tenure, then-Chief Jerry Sanders spoke with the media about their deaths. He said he wanted to "let people know that we respected them as members of the department and weren't going to hide the fact they had been in our department." Although Sanders' actions were unusual within a culture that experts say views suicide as a taboo subject, even he noted that "cops don't talk about that stuff—they either do it, or they don't."

Many departments are afraid of being held liable if the suicide is linked to job-related stress, said Don Sheehan, director of the stress management program at the FBI's Behavioral Sciences Unit. They are also fearful that the image of police officers will be tarnished if a suicide is made public, he told USA Today.

Yet suicide is inarguably a growing concern within law enforcement. A study by the 270,000-member National Fraternal Order of Police in 1995, in which researchers examined insurance records in 92 local chapters in 24 states, found a rate of 22 self-inflicted deaths per 100,000 officers.

The problem has been addressed in departments from Miami to Los Angeles, with programs including a mandatory class about suicide for all personnel, and sending police psychologists from precinct to precinct. Debbie Glasser, a police psychologist with the Los Angeles Police Department, said the department plans to hire 12 more psychologists to add to the 10 already on staff. "We're hoping that by having all the psychologists out and about it'll demystify psychology and just make it seem like it's part of everyday police

work," she said.

The FBI, which lost 18 agents between 1993 and 1998 to suicide and four during that period to line-of-duty deaths, is planning a seminar on suicide for officers at its Quantico, Va., academy in September.

In New York, officers are offered a wide array of counseling services for everything from marriage problems to alcohol abuse. Yet only about 1 percent seek psychological help, said Chief of Personnel Michael Markman.

Andre Ivanoff, a professor of sociology at Columbia University who specializes in suicidal behavior, worked on a 1994 study of New York City police officers' attitudes about suicide. In many departments, he said, it is nearly impossible for an individual to progress through the ranks if it is known that he or she has contemplated suicide or is depressed. "Because of the negative effect it can have on your career, officers are extremely reluctant to identify each other as needing help and will go to great lengths to 'protect' somebody who needs help rather than helping them get it," he told USA Today.

Said Markman: "No. 1, no one wants to be labeled a rat, and No. 2, they think it's career-threatening."

The majority of officers do not kill themselves, said Ivanoff. Indeed, there have been no suicides during the past five years in police departments in Dallas, San Antonio, Houston and Phoenix. Yet as a profession police are ranked fourth in suicides behind dentists, doctors and entrepreneurs.

Alcohol, family issues and the breakup of a relationship all contribute to the rate of police suicides, but experts point to stress as another major factor. "If you're a carpenter and you drop a hammer, you bend over and pick it up," said Sheehan. "What happens to a police officer who drops his gun dur-

ing a bank robbery or misspeaks during a trial? They have to always be in control. Officers learn very early on that they have to always be right."

Experts say that troubled officers often lack energy or motivation. They may be drinking heavily or seem accident-prone and the target of numerous citizen complaints. While the cycle of despair may be broken by communication, many officers are distrustful of anyone outside of law enforcement, yet fear their problems will not be kept confidential by counselors and others who could help.

Last year, Chicago Police Superintendent Terry Hilliard called on his force to help fellow officers who might be in trouble. "Tragically, four members of our police family have committed this fatal act," Hilliard began in an address that went out over thousands of police radios on the night before Thanksgiving. "I am wondering if anyone recognized the internal suffering these officers were experiencing and what steps were taken to reach out and intervene."

From 1990 to 1998, the Chicago Police Department had 12 officers killed in the line of duty and 22 who committed suicide, a rate that is almost double the national average. In addition to his 90-second message, which was replayed dozens of times over a 24-hour period, Hilliard now holds meetings each month with all the agency's officers below the rank of sergeant, and also holds conferences with ranking officers.

But it is difficult to even get an official tally of suicides because many departments do not keep official statistics, say those who have studied the issue. Robert Douglas, a retired Baltimore police officer and executive director of the National P.D.I.C.E. Suicide Foundation, said that many reports of acci-

dental deaths may actually mask suicides. In one instance, a Boston officer's death ruled an accident by the department was found to be a suicide by the medical examiner. "How do you accidentally discharge your firearm into your mouth?" he asked.

Some fifteen years ago, Douglas came close to committing suicide himself, but was stopped from pulling the trigger when his wife entered his study to find out what was wrong. Later on, he became a police chaplain. Preaching at the funeral of a Baltimore officer who killed himself in 1987, he remembers asking, "Do we have a problem?" What Douglas discovered then was that the officer's death was not an aberration, but an event that occurred approximately three times a year.

In speaking to departments about suicide since that time, Douglas said that many do not have suicide awareness programs or protocols for the funerals of officers who have taken their own lives.

When Orange County, Calif., Deputy Sheriff Ernesto Banuelos shot himself in his car in 1997, he was not given an official funeral, nor was his widow given the \$143,943 death benefit that each family of each officer slain in the line of duty receives from the Justice Department. Sylvia Banuelos, who now counsels despondent officers, said she also lost many friends in law enforcement who did not want to be around her after her husband's death.

"Maybe they've contemplated suicide before," she said. "Maybe they've been where Ernie was and it scares them to get that close. Maybe they know it's happened more often and they worry that 'it could be me.'"

Solving NYPD 911 snafus turns into an exercise in fingerpointing

Intermittent service delays over the past few months in New York City's E-911 system are confounding technicians and infuriating city officials, at least one of whom has raised questions about the Police Department's ability to run the sophisticated operation.

The latest power blackout occurred on May 25 when emergency service to the Bronx was knocked out between the hours of 3:35 P.M. and 4:15 P.M. Police could not say whether anyone had been denied emergency aid as a result.

But it was just the latest in a series of mishaps dating to Jan. 31 when police and private emergency-center officials inadvertently cut off 911 service for an hour during a power test. A Queens man having a heart attack died during the outage, unable to summon help.

Since then, delays in service have occurred on April 28, May 4, and May 10, with callers encountering silence for 15 to 30 seconds before operators come on the line. The interruption has led many callers to hang up, believing they have not gotten through.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has put the blame squarely on Bell Atlantic, which maintains the phone lines. The delays were a cause of great concern, said the Mayor, who added that he was "not

satisfied" with the company's performance. "When they resolve the problem, I'll be satisfied," he said. "Until they do, obviously I am not satisfied. We don't want any delays."

However, City Councilman Sheldon Leffler, chairman of the council's Public Safety Committee, said that oversight of the \$200 million system left "a lot to be desired," and the incidents raised questions as to whether the NYPD is capable of handling the technologically advanced system. "I don't think a major corporation that wanted

to establish a similar system would have it run by cops," he told The New York Times.

Finding where the problem lies within the system has degenerated into a fingerpointing exercise among the companies involved in its creation. Paul Crotty, group president in New York and Connecticut for Bell Atlantic, told Newsday that the automated call distributor, a key piece of the network built by Lucent Technologies, could be the source of the trouble. Gaps seem to occur when all 86 dispatchers are oc-

cupied and there are 10 or more calls in the queue, said officials. But technicians were unable to reproduce the gaps when they tried to artificially overload the circuits.

The company that built the E-911 center, Systemhouse Inc., which is now owned by Electronic Data Systems, said the problem was not associated with its software. "When a call makes it to an operator, that's when our software comes into play," said Joe Lisanti, the system's project director. "We're not involved in routing the system."

No more doughnuts from drug fund

A Memphis police fund intended to be used to finance undercover drug buys and pay confidential informants will remain in place, but the loose way in which the money was being allocated will be tightened up, according to the city's chief administrative officer, who installed new rules in May to keep the cash from being spent on frivolous items.

The \$80,000 fund, administered by the Organized Crime Unit and financed with drug forfeitures, had become an inflated petty cash fund used to pur-

chase everything from out-of-town travel to doughnuts, reported The Memphis Commercial Appeal, which examined 5,000 cash transactions made from the fund since 1996.

Under the planned reforms, it will operate like the fund used by the Shelby County Sheriff's Department, which allows money to be used by undercover officers but not for any other purpose. "We are working to devise a policy statement for proper use of these funds so they will be used for what was originally stated," said Rick Masson, the

chief administrative officer, who is second in command to Mayor Willie Herenton.

Should supplies be needed for the OCU office, they will come from a petty cash fund that holds just a few hundred dollars, he said.

The new guidelines were welcomed by the Memphis Police Association. Capt. Steve Brown said the organization had been concerned about a "dual set of standards" in the department. "This sends a message that they're leveling off the playing field."

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Police get a late jump in tackling Y2K bug

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People may see their neighbors lining up for gas and food, he said, and begin panicking that they have not stocked enough provisions should the power fail. "We are making all these preparations for Jan. 1 and forgetting the week before when everyone starts thinking about it and hoarding goods. I think the education part for us has got to be along those lines as far as it makes good sense to prepare," Broadfoot told LEN. "But start that process now, not the last week."

The Waynesboro department will begin its public education campaign in the fall, using the media and a local cable television station to disseminate information on what to do if the gas, phones and electricity fail. It has an emergency operation plan and a shelter system set up in the schools. "We've considered printing up pamphlets, but we haven't made a final decision on this," said Broadfoot.

Feeding the hype

The department has shied away from holding any more open meetings with representatives of the local utility companies, however. They backfired after public relations staff were sent instead of technical personnel. The residents who came to these public meetings were "hard-core Armageddon types," he said, who asked specific technical questions that the utilities' representatives were unable to answer. "That feeds into the hype the Armageddon types are making money on."

While he is not expecting civil unrest in Waynesboro, Broadfoot said he is fully expecting tempers to flare and guns in open view in the days prior to Jan. 1, 2000. As has become standard with many departments, all vacation and leaves have been canceled during the week before and the week after New Year's Eve. Waynesboro police will also be put on 12-hour shifts.

"The worst I can see here would be reminiscent of the 1974 oil crisis lines," he said. "I think there is a very real

possibility of tempers flaring — not necessarily civil unrest, but tempers flaring and requiring a police response to calm things down and get people back in line to get their gas and stuff. I'm not saying it's a possibility. I'm expecting that."

While far from taking a wait-and-see approach, Broadfoot's department is among those agencies that are following a path of cautious optimism that combines operational modifications with technological compliance. Broadfoot said that as far as he knows, Waynesboro's computers, emergency communications system and other equipment are set for 2000. Other departments, including those in Colorado Springs, Colo., and Fort Lauderdale, Fla., have made few operational adjustments thus far, but are readying their computer systems.

This is only a test

There have been a number of agencies here and abroad that in testing their computer and communications systems for year 2000 compliance have uncovered potential crises:

- In Fairbanks, a cutting-edge 911 system installed in the North Star Borough less than two years ago needs a \$192,000 upgrade if it is to work properly. While it is likely the system will perform after Jan. 1, dates, time and other data would be skewed without the repairs, said the borough's emergency system manager.

- The National Association of Counties declared recently that many county-run 911-emergency systems are in danger of failing. Just half of the nation's 3,069 counties are said to have plans to deal with potential breakdowns caused by the Millennium Bug.

- In New Zealand, the country's national police computer system, which holds hundreds of thousands of confidential police files, failed to recognize the year 2000 when police tried to set court dates for people arrested for traffic offenses.

- Fort Lauderdale, Fla., has no plans

to cancel vacations for officers during the New Year's Eve weekend, but police Capt. Mary Graham said the department is spending approximately \$4 million to replace its eight-year-old CAD system and eventually, its RMS system. The technology for the CAD was not Y2K compliant and could not be updated because the company that supported it was no longer in business, she said.

While the RMS will be phased out, it is currently being upgraded so the department will have the option of postponing installation until the new CAD is in place. Graham told LEN there is a citywide project underway to evaluate each computer system and report the findings to a municipal commission. The two systems were purchased jointly with the city of Pompano Beach, she said.

- The Colorado Springs, Colo., Police Department has also focused on technological compliance. At present, the department is trying to identify those divisions that are critically dependent on their computer systems. It has set up subcommittees to look at alternative ways of providing service if those systems crash, said Sgt. Fletcher Howard.

Turning into predators

"In our town, we haven't had any big disasters," said Howard, "but you never know. If it's a totally chaotic situation, I think you'll find a lot of people who wouldn't ordinarily turn into predators all of a sudden taking advantage of the situation."

Potential predators and prey may be on hand in mind-boggling numbers in one U.S. location this coming New Year's Eve: New York's Times Square, where an estimated 2 million or more revelers are expected to crowd into Midtown for a once-in-a-lifetime celebration. In addition to any potential interruptions in the normal life of the city caused by Y2K during the frenzied holiday season, the New York City Police Department will also be contend-

ing with an event that promises to be of historic proportions. Officials claim they will be ready.

According to Dep. Insp. Jay I. Kopstein of the NYPD's Operations Division, who is one of the officials in charge of the department's Y2K preparedness, staffing will be at the optimum level, with uniformed non-patrol personnel deployed around the area. The department made the decision to keep uniformed patrol officers closer to home at their precincts in the event of local emergencies.

"They're familiar — the community knows and recognizes them," he told LEN. "But plans will change." There could be as many as 3,000 different events happening around the city in addition to the main event in Times Square. "All planning is dynamic," Kopstein said. "What we're talking about today may not be true in September."

One incident cited by Kopstein and Assistant Chief John J. Haviken of the Criminal Justice Bureau as a good example of a recent emergency situation handled by the NYPD was the nearly two-day blackout in upper Manhattan that affected tens of thousands of residents during the city's deadly Fourth of July heat wave.

Electricity is key

Despite the hype about Y2K, however, NYPD officials do not anticipate civil unrest ensuing, noting that New

York City has both a wealth of experience in dealing with large-scale celebrations, along with more than adequate numbers of police personnel. The department is trying to create an atmosphere in which people will not be fearful, despite Y2K hype. "We are trying to be a reassuring presence in both the community and the department," said Kopstein. During the third quarter of this year, training will be held to address whatever fears police officers may have about the event, he said.

The key for New York City, and perhaps for other cities as well, is electricity, according to one top NYPD official. Deputy Commissioner Howard Baker, who heads the Office of Technology and Systems Development, told LEN: "The life blood is electricity. If we maintain power, we'll be okay." To this end, the department has met with Con Edison, the public utility company, which has agreed to stage strategic resources so that if they are needed, there will be less distance to travel along packed streets.

As police agencies nationwide enter the last few months before the year 2000, however, they'll find that with very few exceptions there has been little written about Y2K preparations aimed specifically at law enforcement. A look at this information, and other ways in which police agencies are filling the information and preparedness gap, will appear in the concluding installment of this series, in the next issue of LEN.

PD's weigh yet another crime drop

Continued from Page 1

4 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

An 11-percent drop in Miami's violent-crime rate between January and April last year compared with the same period in 1997 helped the city to move from the fifth highest spot on the UCR's Total Crime Index to sixth out of 225 cities with populations of over 100,000. Including Miami, Florida has four cities that are ranked by the UCR among those with the overall highest levels of reported crime. The others include Orlando, which stayed at number three from 1997, Tampa, which moved from sixth to fifth in 1998, and Fort Lauderdale, which fell from seventh in 1997 to number 10 last year.

Miami Police Chief William O'Brien told The Miami Herald that he was not surprised that the city had moved down a notch in the rankings. "We're doing well, even more so this year," O'Brien said, crediting the drop in crime to a working partnership between police and the community.

"When the concept of community policing came out, I thought it was something that was just a real politically correct thing to do, but it's not — it works," he said. "It's not a matter of dumping a bunch of police officers somewhere and getting arrests up, but giving the people in the community the chance to get to know the officers and say, 'We want to support them.'"

In Birmingham, Ala., programs aimed at educating the likely targets of robberies, including fast-food restaurants and convenience stores, have paid off in a drop in robberies, from 1,337 per 100,000 residents reported in 1997 to 969 in 1998. The city has also seen

its homicide total fall from 108 two years ago to 85 last year.

"We started several things," said Chief W.M. Copping. "Number one was zero tolerance, part of our community-oriented policing program, paying more attention to minor violations and showing we are proactive. We noticed a great increase in public awareness and public cooperation to those programs."

In addition, the department has started a program it hopes will make an impact this year. Project ICE (Isolate the Criminal Element) is similar to the vaunted Project Exile program in Richmond, Va., in which all gun crimes are brought before the Federal court. The difference in Birmingham, Copping told LEN, is that if police cannot get a case before that court for a firearms-involved crime, it is taken to the state level and then the local level until a prosecution is made.

Boise, Idaho, has always run slightly behind national trends, and so it is with the downward trend in crime, said Lieut. Jim Tibbs. In 1998, the Crime Index total for the city was 8,482 crimes per 100,000 residents as compared to the previous year's 8,018. Forcible rapes rose from 65 to 78 last year, and there were increases in aggravated assaults, larceny and robbery.

"If a trend starts where there is a decrease in crime, it will take us a while to catch up to that," he told LEN. "Statistically, our numbers are generally quite small, in comparison to other communities. We typically average 3.3 homicides per year, and if we have two additional, that's going to have a dramatic impact on our overall violent crime rate."

School-based drug prevention: no 'silver bullet,' but still valuable

Continued from Page 1

count, however, the cost-benefit ratio improves by nearly a dollar more, researchers said.

The results of the research apply only to Project ALERT and the Life Skills Training Program (LSTP), both of which have been proven effective by formal evaluations, as compared with average law enforcement and treatment programs.

Dr. Lawrence W. Sherman, chairman of the department of criminology and criminal justice at the University of Maryland, offered testimony before a Congressional subcommittee in May in which he noted the effectiveness of Life Skills in reducing delinquency and substance abuse. The training consists of 30 sessions in problem-solving and self-control, and is taught during seventh, eighth and ninth grades.

Project ALERT, which is used throughout South Dakota, is offered to seventh and eighth-graders in 11 sessions.

The drug-prevention program most often used in schools — the Drug Abuse

Resistance Education (DARE) program — is being terminated this year in Burlington, Vt., in favor of a more community-specific substance abuse course for middle school students.

DARE does not cover the wide variety of issues that the city wanted to have included, such as alcohol abuse and domestic violence, said Police Chief Alana Ennis. "We have a disproportionately high incidence of domestic violence in Burlington," Ennis told Law Enforcement News. "Many of these children have witnessed this in their own homes. So what are we doing about it? How are we addressing the cycle of violence?"

The decision to eliminate the DARE program was made with input from the community, she said. As the parent of a child that age, Ennis said she spoke with school superintendents, administrators and her daughter's friends. While the children loved the DARE officer, they did not care much for the program. "I know that they've upgraded the DARE curriculum, but kids are so incredibly sophisticated," Ennis

said.

With a variety of options to choose from, a focus group representing a cross section of the community will select the new program during the summer for the coming school year, as well as evaluate it at the end of the term. The DARE officer and the Officer Friendly will be involved in the creation of the new program, the Chief said.

"The officers are terrific and they've had a positive impact on the schools," said Ennis. "My decision had nothing to do with their performance, which has been exemplary."

The only criticism Ennis said she has received about the elimination of the program has been from the state's DARE coordinator. In a newspaper editorial, Ennis said she felt personally attacked by remarks suggesting she reached her decision in a vacuum. Any police chief worth her salt, she said, would not have made such a potentially controversial move without plenty of input. "I did my homework," she said. "If there had been a groundswell of support, we would have kept it."

Phoenix area tired of delays in rape exams

With an increasing number of hospitals either unable or unwilling to perform time-consuming forensic rape examinations, the Maricopa County, Ariz., Attorney's Office has proposed that victims of sexual assaults who are not injured no longer be taken to area emergency rooms, but rather to one of three centers in Mesa, Glendale or Phoenix, where the exams will be administered by specially-trained nurses.

Authorities believe the centers will fill a crucial gap that has widened over time.

"We had a problem where doctors would basically say, 'We take things in order of what we consider to be emergencies,' and they are people who fix broken bones and stop bleeding and try to get people stabilized," said Bill Fitzgerald, a spokesman for the County Attorney's Office. "After having seen that on a continual basis, we went to

centers. There will be three centers up and working in different parts of the Valley and law enforcement will use those," he told Law Enforcement News.

The facilities will allow victims to spend time with individuals who not only can listen responsibly to what the victim has to say, Fitzgerald added, but also counsel them and get them through the examination as quickly as possible. Under the plan, forensic examinations will be performed by a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) who has completed an extensive training regimen which includes 48 hours of classwork, 24 hours of performing normal pelvic exams and 16 hours of observing courtroom testimony.

Although Mesa is currently the only city to have a victim's center complete with examination room, the Glendale facility, which is already staffed with detectives, will eventually be capable

of treating and collecting evidence from victims. A center in Phoenix is expected to be open within the next several months.

Police say they are already bypassing emergency rooms altogether and driving the extra miles to bring a victim to the Center Against Family Violence in Mesa. Opened in 1996, the facility is serving as a model for others in the area. During the past three years, municipal police have noted an increase in rape prosecutions from 50 percent to 91 percent, Mesa police Sgt. John Terpay told The Arizona Republic.

Glendale Sgt. Bill Copeland, who heads the Glendale sex crimes and family violence unit, told The Republic, "The drive is nothing compared to what [problems] you can create by walking into an ER."

After preparing a victim for what is going to happen during the exam, said

Chris Parks, the victims services coordinator for the Phoenix Police Department, they are often timed away by the hospital. "Then you turn around [to the victim] and say, 'OK, this is really what's going to happen.'"

Noted Phoenix police Lieut. Joe Yonner, head of the department's sex crimes unit, victims who get "the run-around" become worn out. "We lose information that way," he told The Republic.

According to national experts, with only 10 percent of assaults reported, the current confusion over hospitals just encourages victims to remain silent. In 1994, 10 hospitals entered into a loose contractual agreement to provide the exams. Under the contract agreement, the County Attorney's Office paid for the exam when the victim wanted to prosecute, and could set a fixed fee and control costs, said Cindi Nannetti, head of the office's sexual assault unit.

But that venture failed, as hospitals that once did the examinations stopped doing them because they feared being overrun with rape victims from all over the region. Some hospitals not under contract would do the exams intermittently. Eventually, both police and victims' advocates became confused about where to take victims.

One of the biggest problems, victim advocates charge, are emergency-room physicians who are reluctant to examine rape victims because they will then have to testify. Doctors can be a little "schizophrenic," agreed Dr. Kent Layton, business manager of Tempe Emergency Physicians Group, which provides services at Tempe and Phoenix hospitals.

"On the one hand, we are sympathetic and supportive," he told The Republic. "We are outraged that something like this would happen. But like a lot of people in society, we don't want to

get involved."

Getting involved could mean having to take days off without pay to give testimony and disrupting carefully arranged schedules. And unlike expert witnesses, doctors are not paid for their opinions on the stand. Although they can legally refuse to administer exams, physicians are required to screen and stabilize any patient who comes into the emergency room.

But rape victims who are not injured are often a low priority there, said Chandler police Sgt. Kenny Thatcher, who oversees the Police Department's crimes against persons unit. "They just sit and sit and sit," he noted. Victims may wait three or four hours in an emergency room, often feeling vulnerable, before seeing a doctor, as staffers work their way through the most critical cases first. Moreover, emergency rooms are more crowded than ever with uninsured patients who wait until their symptoms become severe before seeking treatment.

In the case of Anna Flores, who was raped, beaten and held hostage, she and an Avondale detective had to drive to three different hospitals before they could find one that would administer an exam. Eventually, the two wound up at Maricopa Medical Center, where they waited for two hours until Flores could be seen by a physician.

"I was embarrassed," she told The Republic. "My shirt was torn. I was walking in with no shoes - just imagine what people were thinking. I felt like everyone knew I was raped." The hospital released her more than two hours later.

Flores said she had wanted to go home after the second hospital turned her and Det. Kelly Shore away. "But the detective told me he couldn't do that," she said. "He wanted me to get the exam."

As high-tech company folds, PD waits for its data system

The Kenner, La., Police Department may not have its silent dispatch capability yet, but the other components of its mobile data system are finally online after years of problems that culminated in May with the filing of a lawsuit against the Virginia high-tech company hired to install the equipment.

The agency sued PSI Inc., of Fairfax, Va., in Federal court for damages and additional costs after the software firm shut its doors in January, leaving the department without use of the software and hardware it had been in the process of installing for the past year. Some \$950,000 of a \$1.3-million contract had already been paid to the firm, which has since re-formed under a subsidiary called Synergetics Systems, also named in the suit.

According to Michael Sigur, the Police Department's personnel administrator, the department ran into trouble when it tried to implement its silent dispatch system, the third phase of a three-phase project.

In January 1997, PSI was contracted to install laptops, docking stations and other software and components. A parallel contract was also made with Motorola to provide the radio infrastructure that would carry the signal for the department's Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) system.

"When PSI came to install their software on the laptops and the equipment

had to be placed in our facilities, it started having troubles," Sigur told Law Enforcement News. "But it wasn't like it couldn't be fixed."

From what the department could tell, he said, PSI's software was not up to the task. With the help of Motorola, however, the basic system that allowed NCIC inquiries to be run from the mobile data system began operating as the department had hoped, said Sigur.

During the second phase of the project, the department tried to implement its AVL system. Software from PSI was supposed to translate the signal from the cars' radio frequency, interfacing with the department's computer-aided dispatch system. The CAD system then produced a digital map that displayed the vehicles — each with a global positioning system (GPS) transmitter — moving around the city.

There were minor problems there as well, said Sigur, but eventually that system was up and running. During the third phase, however, PSI could not get the CAD to run dispatch directly to vehicles — a safety measure the department had demanded so that civilians with radio scanners could not monitor calls. When they tried to go on line with it, the system kept shutting down.

"PSI was supposed to fix it, they kept coming up with supposed fixes, but they never did fix it," Sigur said. In October 1998, the company told the

department that the best way to resolve the situation would be to deinstall the software and reinstall updated server software. The job was supposed to take two days, he said.

"Two months later, it still wasn't off and running. Everything was dead for two months," said Sigur. "We couldn't even run inquiries through NCIC, we couldn't talk between cars, we didn't have AVL."

The frustration was so great at this point, that daily conference calls were being held between PSI and Kenner Police Chief Nick Congemi to discuss updates in devising a solution. On Jan. 4, however, the owner of the company, Dr. Elizabeth Pann, called Sigur one hour before the daily conference call and told him she would be closing her firm in two weeks. "All of a sudden, it was like, great, you left us in a lurch, we have nothing working and now you're telling us you won't even be able to get it back up or fix it," said Sigur. "That really set the stage for us to have to file a lawsuit."

In the interim, the department has been able to replace PSI with another technology firm that reinstalled the KPD's mobile data system so that "we are now back to whole," Sigur said. "Our cars can run inquiries, we can have messages between cars, our AVL is working. The only thing I'm missing is my silent dispatch."

DNA evidence analysis may be as close as your cruiser

A DNA microchip that was created to help identify people at risk for diseases such as breast cancer, with the ability to determine genetic markers within just minutes, will soon be put to use by law enforcement, according to the National Institute of Justice.

The "Forensic DNA Chip," will enable police to use DNA information at the scene of the crime instead of waiting weeks for laboratory analysis. At a cost of \$10 to \$15, the chip will extract DNA from biological evidence placed into an attached well and sealed with tamper-proof evidence tape. It will

identify the genetic codes and relay those markers to a computer screen in the investigator's car. A national data bank linked to the computer will search for possible identification of an offender whose DNA is on file.

The technology is expected to be available within the next two years.

"This chip can be a powerful crime fighting tool because of its speed of analysis, the vast amount of important DNA evidence it can contain and its economy," said NJ Director Jeremy Travis. "The type of crime-fighting technology that we once considered to

be science fiction, like the DNA chip, will be tools that help us create a safer nation in the 21st century."

Other innovations in genetic testing include laser desorption mass spectrometry, a technology that identifies DNA markers from fragments called short tandem repeats. Laboratories currently use a test called restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP), which can take several hours. The new method would cut that time to just minutes, helping to clear the backlog of untested DNA samples in the nation's crime labs, according to NJ

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Manus:

Police critics need the 'blue wall'

By Raymond Manus

With all due respect to former New York Police Commissioner William J. Bratton and his recent published comments regarding the Abner Louima brutality case, police officers are not individual bricks rigidly bound by the mortar of a police culture into a metaphorical "blue wall of silence." Police officers do not take a special pledge to cover misdeeds, nor will they routinely commit perjury to protect outrageous police behaviors. Both the Mollen and Knapp commissions demonstrated that police officers will cooperate with any investigation legally conducted under the rule of law. When there is evidence of police misconduct, the elected and appointed officials who are responsible for the direction and regulation of the police force should not expect the accused officers to investigate themselves.

Activists need the existence of a "blue wall of silence" as a convenient construct to conjure up the illusion that the police are out of control. This short phrase reaches into the emotions of the public to extract all the negative perceptions and stereotypes of the police. This catchy sound bite gives opportunists a chance to advance a personal agenda. The opinion tendered by former Commissioner Bratton was peppered with pejorative: "brutal assault"; "outside the norm"; "widespread corruption"; "pathological police criminals"; "utter disgrace to the police uniform." The term "blue wall" implies that police officers condone despicable conduct. Bratton offers this prediction: The wall is cracking, weakening, and will fall.

But there is no "blue wall." The police are no different from the President, the Congress or the general public when it comes to divulging embarrassing or damaging information. The English language, with all its richness, has no positive word to describe an informant. Our nation incorporates the right to remain silent as a cornerstone of our Constitution. Legislators have found it necessary

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Police officers do not take a special pledge to cover misdeeds, nor will they routinely commit perjury to protect outrageous police behaviors.

to write laws to prevent retaliation against whistleblowers. Parents teach children not to be tattletales. The public holds Sammy "The Bull" Gravano and Linda Tripp in low esteem while honoring those who have carefully chosen their words to be legally accurate without volunteering information. Elevating this universal reluctance to some special significance is a disservice to both the public and the police officers.

The American people seem to separate the ends from the means and tolerate inappropriate means to achieve desirable results. The economy is good, crime is down, character and integrity are not important. But when results are tragic, it is not enough to say the actions were based upon honorable intentions. Some events invite public out-

rage and the political response will find a convenient scapegoat. Self-promoting activists will attach themselves to legitimate causes to advance their agenda. When this superficial response attacks the symptoms of the problem to produce immediate results, the magnitude of the problem is easily overlooked.

The evidence clearly indicates that the police provide testimony as required by law. Those who employ the "blue wall" metaphor want the police to volunteer information when they think their fellow officers acted inappropriately. The laws of New York expect the police to act upon reasonable cause to believe a person committed a crime. There is no requirement that the officer must be right. Police often must make difficult decisions

based upon incomplete data. When the results are good, the event is forgotten. Let the outcome turn bad and the officer must defend the decision, but only after additional facts and evidence have been collected. Force that originally appeared "reasonable" may be deemed excessive after further analysis, cross-examination and judicial review. A single spontaneous event can chance a police officer's entire career from heroic to corrupt. One bad choice and the officer is bad, dirty or brutal. Commissioner Bratton vowed to back officers who were right, but if the officer were "dirty or brutal," he said, "I'll see to it that you're arrested, you're fired and you're put in jail."

Since police officers must answer questions that expose them to a loss of job, pension and/or freedom, they have a right to an attorney. Activists want to bury the due-process rights of police officers under their construction of this blue wall. Politicians will point to the mythical blue wall to divert attention from their failure to direct and control police behavior. Advocates for meaningful analysis and reform are lost when the mythical blue wall captures the public's imagination and individual police officers believe no one is interested in the truth.

Hall:

Hats off to the Police Corps

By Charles Hall

The Police Corps is an excellent vehicle for developing new officers and enhancing the skills of existing officers, and yet considerable confusion and frustration surrounds the program. While two professional organizations, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National

Sgt. Charles Hall is accreditation manager for the Savannah, Ga., Police Department, where he also serves as Law Enforcement Explorer advisor and founded the Select program.

Association of Police Organizations, contend that Police Corps funds should be channeled directly toward the educational advancement of in-service officers, the fact is that it would serve law enforcement well to more diligently develop new officers with the hopes of achieving higher retention rates and better qualified police officers in our communities.

The Justice Department, spurred by an act of Congress, developed the Police Corps to assist law enforcement agencies, especially smaller ones, in recruiting and retaining better trained and educated

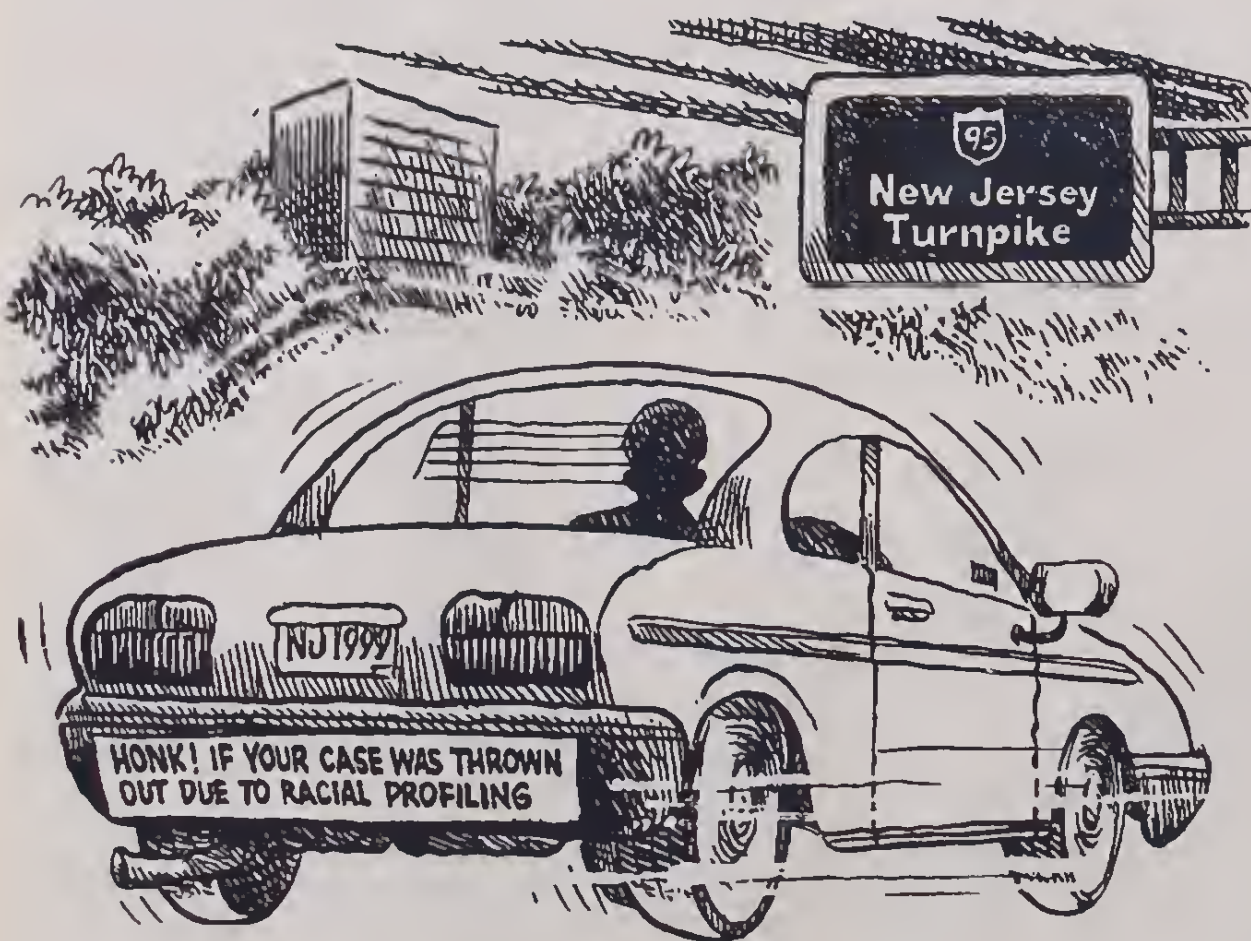
law enforcement officers. This is an excellent idea that should not be too difficult to accomplish. A facilitator is appointed for each state — usually through the governor's office. This person then becomes responsible for administering the funds based on a set of prescribed criteria. Then there are the recruiting and selection processes, coupled with other administrative facets of facilitating the funds, which can become cumbersome. In addition to selecting candidates for the program, the program manager will also have to find host agencies for the qualified prospective recruits.

What would sustain this entire effort would be the establishment of a board of law enforcement officers to set guidelines as to who shall be qualified to receive funding. Another potential component in the awarding of funds would be to set up a scholarship for high school seniors. Again, this would go through a "panel process" to ensure equality in the selection process. This process would be a tremendous undertaking for anyone — but worthwhile.

In the state of Georgia, inquiries about the Police Corps have been made for almost two years, and now, through the efforts of Dr. William Megathlin of Armstrong Atlantic State University and Dr. Bob Gaylor of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, the program is on its way to being fully operational in the state.

The Savannah Police Department is in the process of implementing its Secondary Education Law Enforcement Cadet Training (Select) program, which is designed to link the Police Department and the Board of Education in a technical preparatory partnership. The program is run as an extension of the Law Enforcement Exploring program. Each candidate will be required to

Continued on Page 10



JIMMY MARGULIES / Bergen Record

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Readers are invited to voice their opinions on topical issues, in the form of letters or full-length commentaries. Please send all materials to the editor.

Federal File

(A roundup of criminal justice developments at the Federal level.)

Targeting date rape

An increasing number of rapes and sexual assaults facilitated by the drugs Rohypnol and gamma hydroxybutyrate has prompted the Justice Department to release a new training video and manual for local police and prosecutors who investigate incidents involving "date rape" drugs.

The video, released in May and called "The Prosecution of Rohypnol and GHB Related Sexual Assaults," provides strategies for law enforcement, including the methods needed to charge in such cases without a urine sample or positive toxicology result. The items were produced by the American Prosecutors Research Institute under a grant from the DOJ's Violence Against Women Office. The project was requested by Attorney General Janet Reno after she heard accounts from survivors of drugged sexual attacks.

"Victims of drug-facilitated sexual assaults are helpless against their attackers because they're incapacitated by drugs like Rohypnol and GHB," said Reno. "These types of crimes are very difficult for police officers and prosecutors to investigate and bring to trial. Collaboration among prosecutors, law enforcement officers, health care professionals and advocates is key to successfully investigating and prosecuting these cases."

Endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the video and manual were developed with the assistance of a panel of experts that included prosecutors, police, toxicologists and victims advocates. Sexual assaults of this type can be doubly devastating to victims, said Bonnie Campbell, director of VAWO. "Not only do these women live with the physical effects of these drugs, they must also face the daily mental torment of not knowing what happened to them while they were drugged," she said.

Alcohol & gasoline

Despite an unprecedented 2.6 trillion miles logged by drivers on America's highways last year, preliminary figures released in May by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show that traffic fatalities caused by alcohol hit an all-time low in 1998, just as overall deaths on the nation's highways declined slightly over the previous year.

According to NHTSA, alcohol was involved in 15,936 deaths last year, or 38.4 percent of all fatal accidents. In 1997, it contributed to 16,189 traffic fatalities, or 38.5 percent. Last year's figure is the lowest documented since the Government began keeping such records in 1975. Officials credit the decrease to stricter law enforcement and states' efforts to lower the legal blood-alcohol limit to .08.

The statistics were compiled from standardized accident reports completed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Another finding was that 62 percent of those killed last year were not wearing seat belts, according to Dr. Ricardo Martinez, an emergency room physician who heads the safety administration. "We've been saying for years and it's still true: Buckle up and increase your chance of survival," he said.

Zoned out

Federal officials and lawmakers fear that a cutback in anti-drug flights pending the transfer of the Canal Zone to Panama will wreak havoc with the nation's drug-interdiction tactics. Some 2,000 anti-narcotics missions have been flown per year from Howard Air Force Base in the Canal Zone, said Ana Maria Salazar, the Pentagon's deputy assistant secretary for drug enforcement policy.

Under a treaty agreement negotiated in 1977 by during the Carter Administration, Panama will take over the canal from the United States on Dec. 31, along with five U.S. military bases and 70,000 acres of land.

Howard was the "crown jewel in our fight against drugs," said Representative Benjamin Gilman (R.-N.Y.), the chairman of the House International Relations Committee. "I am deeply alarmed by the Administration's disjointed and halfhearted response to the impending withdrawal of U.S. forces from Panama," he told The Associated Press.

According to Peter Romero, acting assistant secretary of State for Western Hemisphere affairs, the Clinton Administration had tried for six years to work out an agreement with Panama that would allow the U.S. to continue its surveillance activities. Negotiations were cut off last September, however, when the Panamanian Government refused to sign an agreement that would have given the U.S. military access to Howard for another 12 years under the auspices of an anti-narcotics center.

Full operations are expected to be restored within two years by building up three smaller staging areas in the region, according to State and Defense Department officials.

In testimony before the House committee, Salazar estimated

that surveillance of the Caribbean region was only half of what it had been two years ago.

Free to talk

The Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that New York City may no longer prohibit employees from reporting the names of undocumented aliens to Federal authorities.

The policy, which began under the administration of former Mayor Edward Koch and has been continued by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, was created because officials were concerned that undocumented immigrants would be less likely to aid in criminal investigations if they believed police would alert the Immigration and Naturalization Service to their whereabouts.

But in its ruling in May, the appellate court found that the city could not ignore key sections of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, which invalidate state and local ordinances harring employees from voluntarily providing information about illegal aliens.

States do not have the "untrammeled right" to forbid all voluntary cooperation with particular Federal programs by state and local officials, said the three-judge panel.

Although city officials have yet to comment on the ruling, similar rulings made by lower courts in the past were found to have little impact. Employees may not be prohibited from reporting on undocumented aliens, but neither are they required to do so.

Listening post

The number of wiretaps approved by state courts last year outpaced those sanctioned by Federal authorities, according to figures released by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. State courts authorized 763 wiretaps in 1998 — a 24-percent increase over the 617 approved the prior year. Meanwhile, Federal courts have held steady over the past two years, with 566 authorized wiretaps in 1998, and 569 in 1997.

Overall, the number of wiretaps has grown from 1,186 in 1997 to 1,329 last year. During the past decade, however, such surveillance actions rose from just 738 total wiretaps authorized — 293 permitted by Federal courts and 445 by state courts. Nearly half of the state-authorized wiretaps last year — 373 — were issued in New York, the report said, followed by New Jersey (84), Pennsylvania (68), California (52) and Florida (44).

The number of wiretaps placed by state and Federal law enforcement on cell phones, pagers, e-mail and other electronic communications devices nearly tripled in 1998, for the first time surpassing the number of bugs put on conventional telephones, according to the court office.

With taps on wireless communications devices made simpler through advances in technology, they increased from 206 in 1997 to 576 last year, said the report. Bugs on cell phones and pagers accounted for almost 50 percent each, and five e-mail intercepts were authorized by judges. Approximately three-quarters of the surveillance devices were requested for state and local investigations involving drugs.

Going postal

Charging that the Immigration and Naturalization Service is mistaking immigration detainees for packages, critics are assailing the agency's plan to group illegal aliens together by nationality and ship them to jails in the Midwest and Southwest.

Under the proposal, undocumented immigrants from Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean would be moved to facilities in Texas. Those from Europe, Africa and Asia would be sent to Chicago. The INS said it is under pressure to slash a backlog of cases and move immigrants out of detention quickly. Many are convicted criminals who already have deportation orders, it said.

"It's almost like the INS has forgotten they're people and not packages," said Representative Luis Guterrez (D.-Ill.), who chairs the immigration task force of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, in a letter to INS Commissioner Doris Meissner.

Critics called the INS plan racist and said it would demoralize

immigrants, separating them from family members and support services needed to fight deportation. Immigrants-rights groups charge that "hubbing" aliens assures that nearly all detainees would be deported, not just convicted criminals.

Camera shy

While police ride-alongs and public access areas are still safe ground for the nation's news media, reporters may no longer accompany law enforcement officers on raids on people's homes, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously in May.

The Justices were not persuaded by arguments by both the media and law enforcement that such coverage helps government efforts to fight crime, ensures accurate reporting on police activities and minimizes possible abuse of suspects.

"The need for accurate reporting on police issues in general hears no direct relations to the constitutional justification for the police intrusion into a home," said Chief Justice William Rehnquist, writing for the Court. The need for good public relations for police, he said, was not enough on its own to justify the practice.

Under the ruling, officers who allow the media into homes during police activities could be sued for constitutional violations of the Fourth Amendment.

The decision stems from two cases, one in which a reporter and photographer for The Washington Post accompanied police on a search of a Rockville, Md., couple's home. The photographs, one of which shows homeowner Charles Wilson in his underwear with a police officer's gun to his head, were not published. The other case involved Federal agents who permitted a CNN camera crew to tag along while they raided a Montana ranch.

The officers who conducted the raids in both cases could not be sued, said the Court, because the rules against such ride-alongs were not clear at the time.

Inching toward 100,000

Community police hirings got a shot in the arm in May when President Clinton announced \$95 million in grants to hire another 1,500 officers as part of his pledge to fund 100,000 community police officers by 2000. The President used the occasion to celebrate the drop in homicides and other violent crimes — achievements that he said are the result of the 1994 crime bill.

Clinton has an omnibus crime package with initiatives aimed at reducing juvenile violence that he would like to see embraced by Congress. He is also pushing for a renewal of the community policing program for five years. However, his announcement did not sit well with Republicans, who claim next year's budget has little room to renew the grants.

Moreover, Clinton's budget would eliminate the anticrime block grants they favor. Republicans said they want block-grant funding for a \$523-million program for local law enforcement agencies and \$250 million for state and local juvenile crime programs, said Elizabeth Morra, spokeswoman for the House Appropriations Committee.

Republicans also claim that Clinton has failed to make good on his 100,000 officer pledge, pointing to a recent audit by the Justice Department's inspector general that found police agencies using community oriented policing grants to supplant state and local funds. [See LEN, April 30, 1999]

But administrations officials said that an 18-month lag exists between the time agencies receive the funds and when the new officer is ready to hit the streets.

No room to hide

The House Ways and Means Committee in May approved legislation that would expand the funding for the Customs Service's pursuit of Internet predators from \$2.5 million to \$10 million. Under the bill, staff would also increase from 50 to 64 at the Child Pornography/Child Sexual Exploitation Program. Said Customs Commissioner Raymond Kelly: "The people who exploit children on the Internet think they can hide in cyberspace — they are wrong."

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Racial profiling still drives police agenda

If police agencies and national law enforcement leadership organizations continue to resist calls for the collection of racial and ethnic data during traffic stops as a means of identifying racial profiling practices, then state lawmakers are going to see that the choice is taken out of their hands.

Due in part to reports by civil libertarians and government agencies on the disproportionate number of blacks motorists pulled over as compared with anyone else, state legislatures, including those in Pennsylvania and Ohio, are proposing bills that mirror the measure introduced earlier this year in Congress by Representative John Conyers (D-Mich.). The legislation would require law enforcement to collect information about the race and ethnicity of all motorists stopped for traffic violations.

In Ohio, a disturbing report released in June by the American Civil Liberties Union found minority drivers four times as likely as others to be ticketed in the metropolitan areas of Akron, Toledo, Dayton and Columbus. Part of a national study of racial profiling, the 77-page report was written by University of Toledo law professor David Harris, who said the findings indicated that the experiences of black drivers in

these cities were not "disconnected anecdotes," but rather "established and persistent patterns of law enforcement conduct."

Harris found that in Akron, some 37 percent of traffic citations were issued to blacks, although blacks make up just 23 percent of the driving-age population in the city. African Americans in Toledo, according to the study, were given 31 percent of all citations, although they make up 18 percent of drivers. In Dayton, 38 percent of drivers are black, yet they accounted for 50 percent of tickets. And in the Columbus/Franklin County area, where African Americans represent 16 percent of all drivers, they were issued 25 percent of the tickets.

Although the report was challenged by city police in Columbus, Harris said that if anything his findings tended to give law enforcement the benefit of the doubt because they identified only those cases in which citations were issued. "In all likelihood, using tickets alone might underestimate any racial bias that is present in stops because police might not ticket blacks stopped for nontraffic purposes," Harris told USA Today.

But Columbus police Lieut. Tom

Fischer questioned whether Harris was "a professor with an agenda." Fischer said he had not seen the report, but the department would look at it if it were given a copy, because it is "sensitive to racial issues."

The Pennsylvania House Democratic Policy Committee on the issue of traffic stops convened a hearing in June intended to lay the groundwork for legislation proposed by State Representative Harold James, a Democrat from Philadelphia, requiring the state's Attorney General to compile data giving a breakdown of all traffic stops. An identical bill died in the Republican-controlled House in 1998.

At least four of the 10 lawmakers who sat on the committee described being singled out by police because they were black or Hispanic. In testimony before the committee, State Representative Benjamin Ramos said he was stopped several times as a young man in North Philadelphia. On foot with a friend after leaving their car, Ramos told the panel that the two men had a gun pointed at them by an officer who claimed to be responding to a report of a suspicious vehicle just like the one the men had been driving.

The 42-year-old Ramos told The

Philadelphia Inquirer that it was "almost routine," adding that his 23-year-old son had run into similar situations.

But according to testimony from John M. Gallagher, a special adviser to Philadelphia Police Commissioner John F. Timoney, a detailed form that asks for such information as an individual's race and why the traffic or pedestrian stop occurred will be required citywide by July 5. The reports are already being implemented in some police districts.

Police have already stopped using the number of traffic and pedestrian stops they make as a barometer of effectiveness, said Gallagher. The department is looking for "quality car stops," not "quantity car stops," he said.

In testifying before the committee, Stefan Presser, legal director of the ACLU of Pennsylvania, said the department should be required to audit the new, detailed reports at regular intervals to make sure racial profiling is not occurring. Presser added that the State Police should be made to discontinue Operation Whiteline, a drug-interdiction program which he said depends "in a large degree on improper race profiling."

According to Jack Lewis, a spokesman for the State Police, "aggressive patrol criminal enforcement" has replaced Operation Whiteline, a program under which troopers were instructed to look for evidence of possible drug activity when they made traffic stops. The new program, implemented two years ago, requires troopers to look for any type of criminal activity when they stop someone. Neither program, Lewis insisted, "has any element of racial profiling."

In April, the Miami-Dade County Independent Review Panel in Florida investigated possible racial profiling in the county and 29 municipalities. It found that blacks accounted for 50 percent of arrests between 1994 and 1997, although during that time, they represented 20 percent of the Miami-Dade population.

That finding perhaps came as no surprise to Miami Police Officer Leon Leonard Sr., whose attorney has filed an intent to initiate litigation, one step short of filing a lawsuit against the City of Miami on behalf of the officer and his son, Leon Leonard Jr.

The younger Leonard, 17, has been stopped by police nine times in 24 months while driving his parent's BMW, he told The Miami Herald. The last time Leonard was stopped, on May 5, it led to an ugly confrontation between police at the Grove Street substation and Leonard Sr., who was concerned about his son's treatment during the traffic stop. Hundreds of enraged black Miami residents faxed outraged protests to a local black gospel radio station and spoke out during a community meeting.

"These cops were out of control," said Leon's attorney, Robert Young. "They arrested him and unarrested him. How do you do that?"

Miami Police Chief William O'Brien said the department has no policy endorsing racial profiling. The incident at the Grove Street substation "disappoints me," he said. "Everyone could have handled this a lot better."

Leonard Sr. said that it is obvious that profiling does exist in the Miami department to some extent. He is often called upon by neighbors seeking his advice in his capacity as a member of the force, he said. "I get complaints all the time," he told The Herald. "People come to my house. I can't exclude what they are telling me. I'm going to tell the truth."

At the same time that protests in Miami were taking place over the arrest of Officer Leonard's son, the ACLU brought a lawsuit in Oklahoma charging that a black Army sergeant, Rossano V. Gerald, and his 12-year-old son were stopped by Oklahoma state troopers and questioned for two hours last August. A search of the vehicle without his permission found no contraband, but did approximately \$1,000 worth of damage, according to the suit.

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Law Enforcement News

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Forum: Hats off to the Police Corps

Continued from Page 8

take POST-approved courses while in the program, and would be mandated to complete a substantial amount of community service. Upon graduating from high school, the cadet becomes eligible to compete for Police Corps funding and is urged to remain in the program until reaching age 22.

This program would be an excellent model for statewide adoption. It would also serve as an excellent recruiting tool for both the Police Corps and law enforcement agencies in general. Such a program along with the Police Corps has the potential for being as effective and valuable to law enforcement as the ROTC has been to the military.

Not only do the potential candidates stand to gain financially and educationally, but the sponsoring or hiring agencies do as well. In addition to gaining a better educated recruit, with a two- or four-year college degree plus state certification, the agency also receives \$10,000 per year per recruit for four years. This agreement binds the candidate to the agency for four years.

Through the Police Corps the agency thus procures monetary rewards as well as a personnel commitment.

The Police Corps is the best initiative for law enforcement and should be embraced — as long as it is not abused or misused. This would afford the opportunity to obtain a formal education to many individuals who may not otherwise have had the means to do so. The Police Corps enhances its candidates' employability. I would personally recommend that an agency become involved in the Police Corps.

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20. Handcuffing Instructor & Instructor Re-certification. Presented by R.E.B. Training International. Orono, Me. \$220.

23. Basic Evidence Technician. Presented by the Criminal Justice Institute, College of Lake County. Grayslake, Ill.

23-24. Value-Centered Leadership: A Workshop on Ethics, Values & Integrity. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Alexandria, Va.

23-25. Administering a Small Law Enforcement Agency. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. St. Louis.

23-25. Criminal Investigative Techniques II. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Garland, Texas.

23-27. Police Executive Development: The Pursuit of Quality. Presented by the Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute. Fort Collins, Colo. \$495.

23-27. Tactical Drug Law Enforcement. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$525.

23-27. Police Radar Instructor Course. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$525.

23-27. Criminal Investigative Techniques. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$525.

23-27. Advanced Traffic Accident Reconstruction with WinCrash. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$795.

23-27. Advanced Techniques for Unsolved Death Investigations. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$550.

24-26. Street Survival '99. Presented by Calibre Press. New Orleans. \$199.

30-31. Managing the Training Unit. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Chesterfield, Va.

30-Sept. 1. Police Traffic Laser Instructor Course. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$395.

30-Sept. 3. Sex Crimes. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$525.

31-Sept. 2. Street Survival '99. Presented by Calibre Press. Harrisburg, Pa. \$199.

SEPTEMBER

2-3. Reducing School Violence. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Schaumburg, Ill.

8. Report Writing & Courtroom Testimony. Presented by the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management. Wellesley, Mass.

8-10. Drug Trak for Windows Training Course. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$395.

8-10. Street Survival '99. Presented by Calibre Press. Indianapolis. \$199.

8-10. Advanced Internal Affairs: Proactive Steps for Corruption Prevention. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Tucson, Ariz.

8-10. Drug Interdiction. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Worcester, Mass.

9. Managing the Media. Presented by the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management. Wellesley, Mass.

9-10. Managing of Covert Operations. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Seattle.

12-15. Third-Party Defense: Close-Quarter Battle Techniques. Presented by the Executive Protection Institute. Berryville, Va. \$995.

13. Advanced Evidence Technician. Presented by the Criminal Justice Institute, College of Lake County. Grayslake, Ill.

13-15. Fraud Investigation Methods. Presented by the Investigation Training Institute. New York.

13-16. Investigation of Incidents of Excessive/Deadly Force by Police. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. St. Charles, Mo.

13-17. Investigation of Motorcycle Accidents. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Phoenix. \$525.

13-17. Leading Law Enforcement into the 21st Century. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$525.

13-17. Advanced Gang Investigation. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$550.

13-17. Law Enforcement Ethic: Train the Trainer. Presented by the Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute. New Braintree, Mass. \$495.

13-17. SWAT I: Basic Tactical Operations & High-Risk Warrant Service. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Chesterfield, Va.

13-Oct. 22. Program in Delinquency Control. Presented by the Delinquency Control Institute. Los Angeles. \$4,300.

15. Handcuffing Instructor & Instructor Re-certification. Presented by R.E.B. Training International. Newport, R.I. \$220.

15-17. Cultural Awareness: Train the Trainer. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Aurora, Colo.

16. Managing a 911 Center. Presented by the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management. Wellesley, Mass.

16. OCAT Instructor Course & Instructor Re-certification. Presented by R.E.B. Training International. Newport, R.I. \$220.

16-17. Tracing Illegal Proceeds. Presented by the Investigation Training Institute. New

York.

16-17. Performance Appraisal. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. St. Louis.

19. OCAT Instructor Course & Instructor Re-certification. Presented by R.E.B. Training International. East Windsor, Conn. \$220.

20-21. Excellence in the FTO Program. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Spokane, Wash.

20-22. Investigative Techniques for Gang-Related Homicides. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$395.

20-22. Advanced Supervision Skills. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. St. Peters, Mo.

20-22. Civil Disorder Resolution II: Command Strategies. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Al-

buquerque, N.M.

20-24. Police Executive Development: The Pursuit of Quality. Presented by the Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute. Dallas. \$495.

20-24. Police Applicant Background Investigation. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$525.

20-24. Narcotic Identification & Investigation. Presented by the Institute of Police Technology & Management. Jacksonville, Fla. \$525.

20-24. SWAT II: Advanced Tactical & Hostage Rescue Operations. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Chesterfield, Va.

20-24. Less Lethal Weapons Instructor Certification Course. Presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Calgary, Alberta.

21-23. Suicide & Law Enforcement. Presented by the Behavioral Science Unit, FBI Training Division. Quantico, Va.

22. Managing Marginal Employees. Presented by the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management. Wellesley, Mass.

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Criminal Justice Institute, College of Lake County, 19351 W. Washington St., Grayslake, IL 60030-1198 (847) 223-6601, ext. 2937. Fax (847) 548-3384. E-mail: rubel@clc.cc.il.us.

Crisis Prevention Institute, 3315-K North 124th St., Brookfield, WI 53005. 1-800-558-8976. Fax: (414) 783-5906. E-mail: info@crisisprevention.com. Web: <www.crisisprevention.com>

Dallas Children's Advocacy Center, P.O. Box 720338, Dallas, TX 75372-0338. (214) 818-2600. Fax: (214) 823-4819.

Delinquency Control Institute, P.O. Box 77902, Los Angeles, CA 90099-3334 (213) 743-2497. Fax: (213) 743-2313.

Executive Protection Institute, Journey's End, P.O. Box 802, Berryville, VA 22611 (540) 955-1128

Institute of Police Technology & Management, University of North Florida, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Rd. So., Jacksonville, FL 32216. (904) 646-2722.

International Association of Chiefs of Police, P.O. Box 90976, Washington, DC 20090-0976. 1-800-THE IACP. Fax: (703)

836-4543. Web: <www.theiucp.org>

Investigation Training Institute, P.O. Box 770579, Orlando, FL 32877-0579. (407) 816-7273. Fax: (407) 816-7232. Web: <www.investigationtraining.com>

New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management, P.O. Box 57350, Babson Park, MA 02157-0350 (617) 237-4724. Web: <http://www.niac.net/users/gburke/nclcm.html>

R.E.B. Training International Inc., P.O. Box 845, Stoddard, NH 03464. (603) 446-9393. Fax: (603) 446-9394

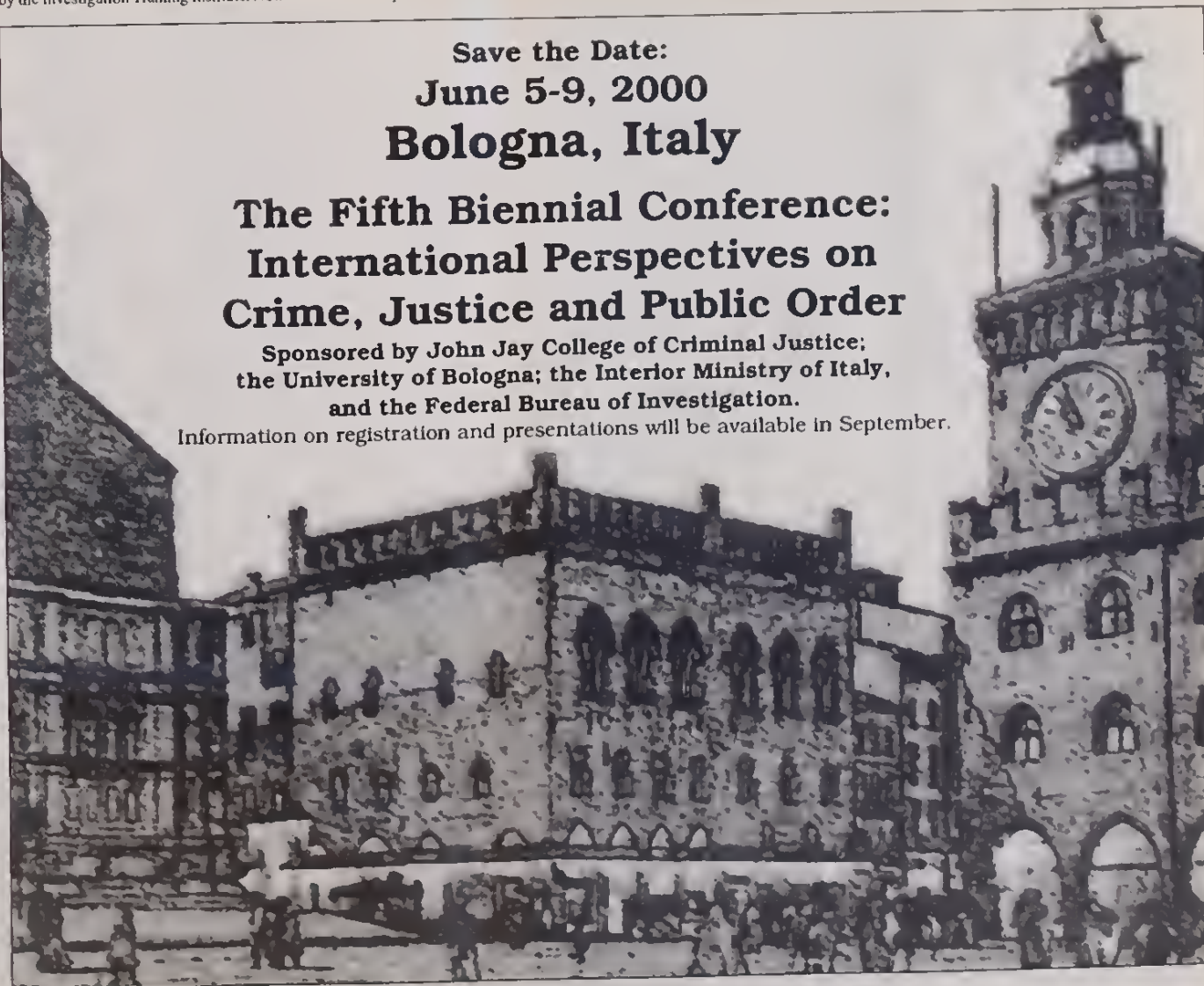
Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute, P.O. Box 830707, Richardson, TX 75083-0707. (972) 664-3471. Fax: (972) 699-7172. Web: <http://web2.airmail.net/sllf/slei.html>

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Is this the No. 1 threat to public safety in America?

Find out what police agencies are doing
(if they're doing anything) to get ready for
the consequences of the millennium computer bug.

Part 1 of a special report, on Page 1.

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What They Are Saying:

"When the concept of community policing came out, I thought it was something that was just a real politically correct thing to do, but it's not — it works."

— Miami Police Chief William O'Brien, crediting that city's 1998 drop in crime to a working partnership between the police and the community. (Story, Page 1.)